2

Yozakura Quartet

Suzuhito Yasuda

2

Suzuhito Yasuda

Translated by Satsuki Yamashita
Adapted by Nunzio DeFilippis and Christina Weir
Lettered by North Market Street Graphics

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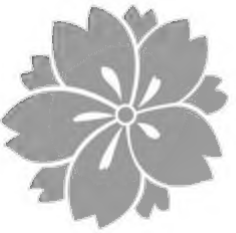

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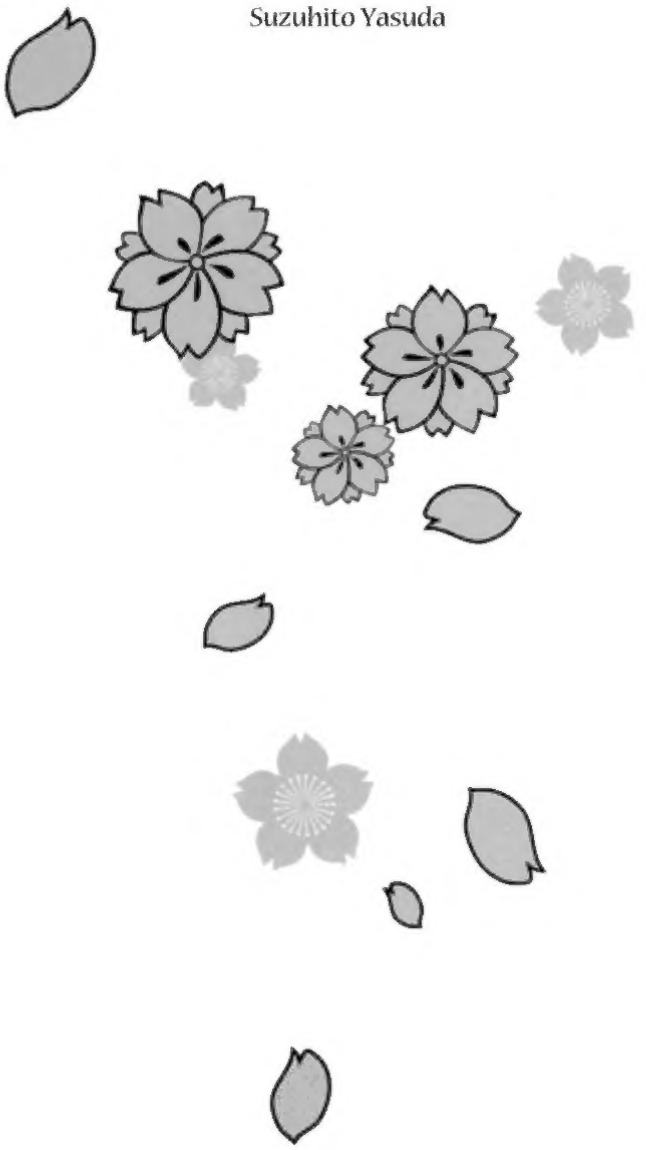
A Note from the Author

It seems that time has flown
since the first volume, but six months
have passed. Even if life is long, six months
is still a big chunk of it. I hope that I'm
better than I was six months ago.

Suzuhito Yasuda



Honorifics Explained

In this manga book, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in our manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

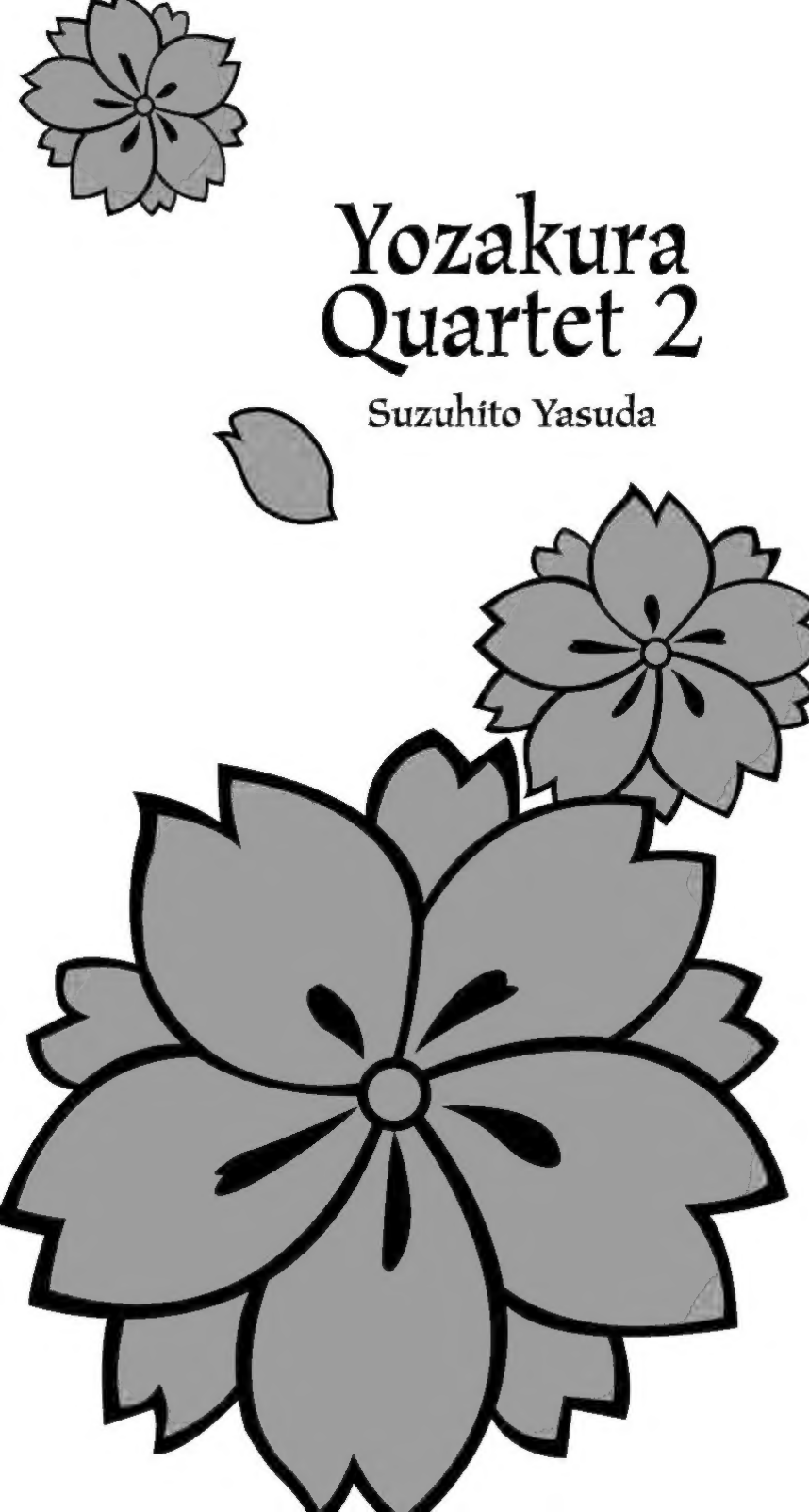
Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

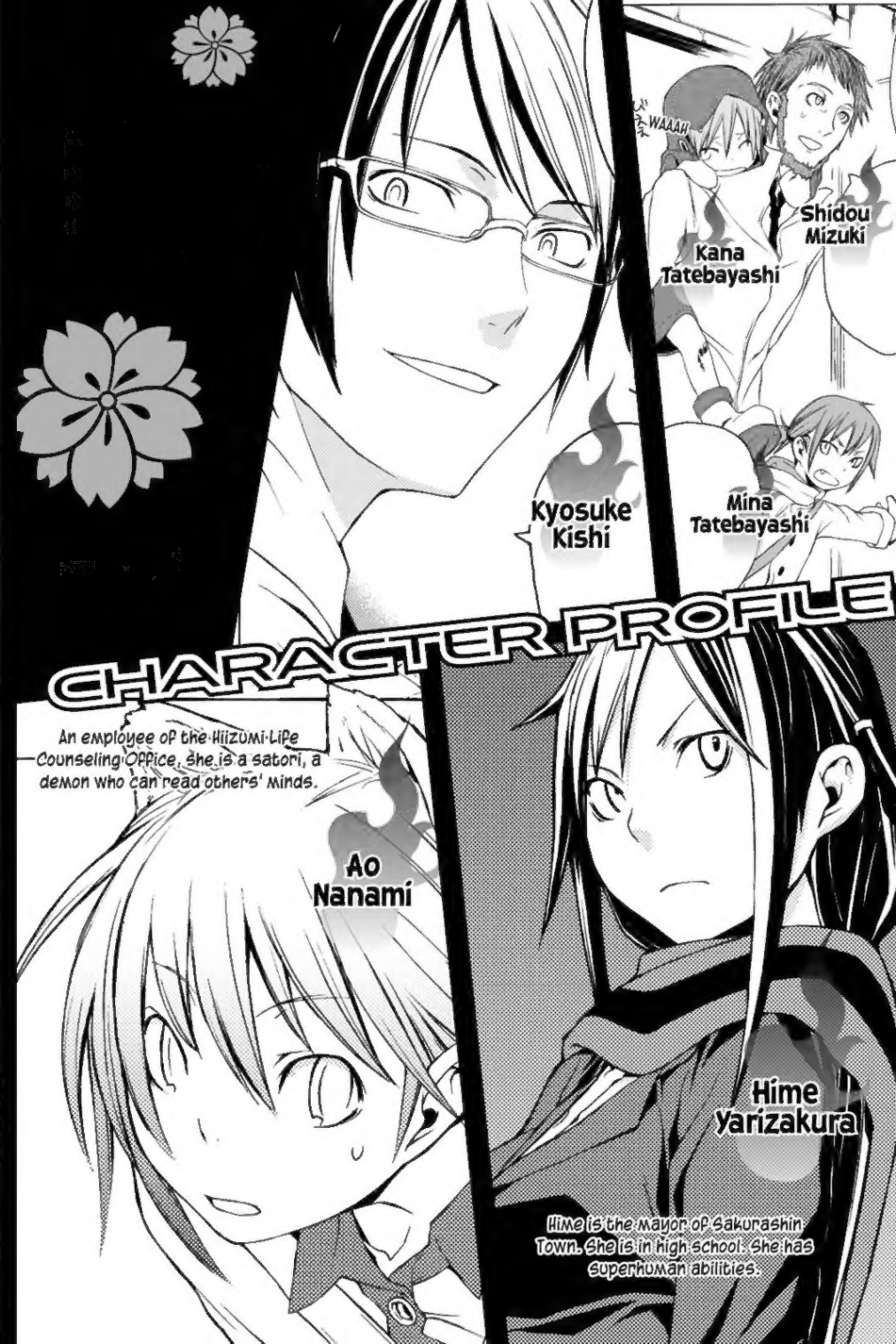
-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

Yozakura Quartet 2

Suzuhito Yasuda



Akina Hiizumi
The director of the Hiizumi Life Counseling Office, he is a normal human who faces the weird incidents that occur in his town.
Kotoha Isone
A part-time worker at the Hiizumi Life Counseling Office. She is a kododama user, who can materialize her words.
YOZAKURA QUARTET
Outline
Sakurashin Town is a town full of demons and cherry blossoms. The four who face the weird incidents surrounding the spiritual sakura, the Seven Pillars, are: Hime, Kotoha, Ao, and Akina. They have days with trouble and days without.
V
Juri
F
Rin Azuma


WAAAH!
Shidou Mizuki
Kana Tatebayashi
Kyosuke Kishi
Mina Tatebayashi
CHARACTER PROFILE
An employee of the Hiizumi Life Counseling Office, she is a satori, a demon who can read others' minds.
Ao Nanami
Hime Yarizakura
Hime is the mayor of Sakurashin Town. She is in high school. She has superhuman abilities.

Yozakura Quartet Contents

005..... Moving Forward (Part 1)
037..... Moving Forward (Part 2)
065..... Moving Forward (Part 3)
103..... Your Name Is
125..... Cherish the Moment
147..... Thorny Road (Part 1)
180..... Extras

I'm hungry! I'm hungry!
Waaaaah!

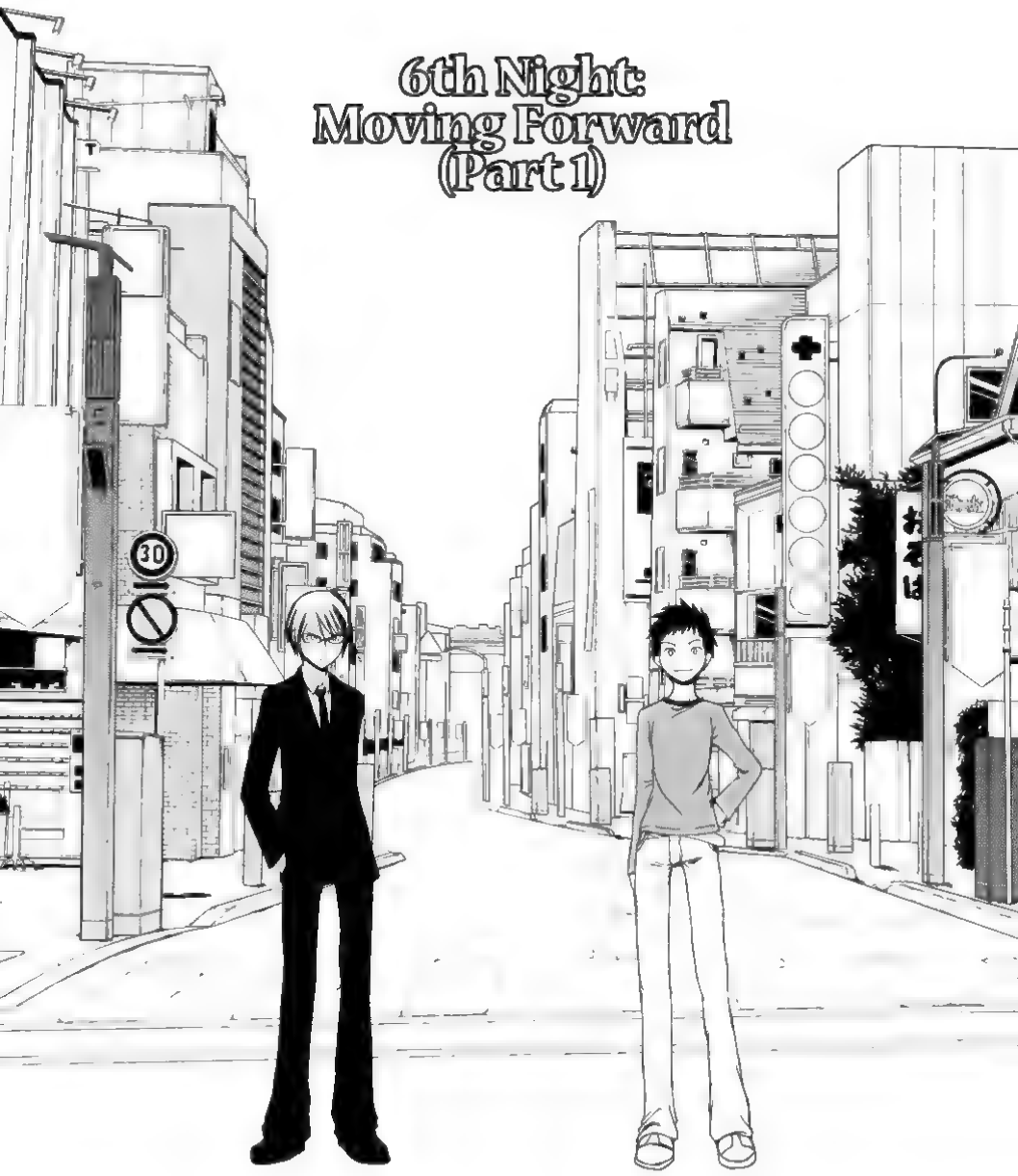
She ate two hours ago.
Argh, shut up! Get something, Kyosuke!!
NOODLES!!!
NOODLES!!
NOODLES...
Someone order something!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
Modern BBQ History
Thomas McCoy

Argh!
FLAP

Use the pummel of death!!
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
Famitsu
We've worked enough for the day.
And you two! Get back to work!

You guys are slacking off!
In order to shape up, we're cleaning up the office tomorrow!
So everyone better show up!
I'm leaving for Germany tomorrow!
I had them reissue my ticket.
The one Hime ruined.
I also have stuff to do...
Various stuff...
Huh? What?
Tomorrow's not good.
Hime-sama has a district meeting.
Huh?
Really?
Everyone?
BITE
BITE

6th Night: Moving Forward (Part 1)



キュッ
SQUEAK

I wonder if I'm too easy on them.
It's fine because I like to clean, but...

I ended up cleaning all by myself...
キュッキュッ SHINE SHINE

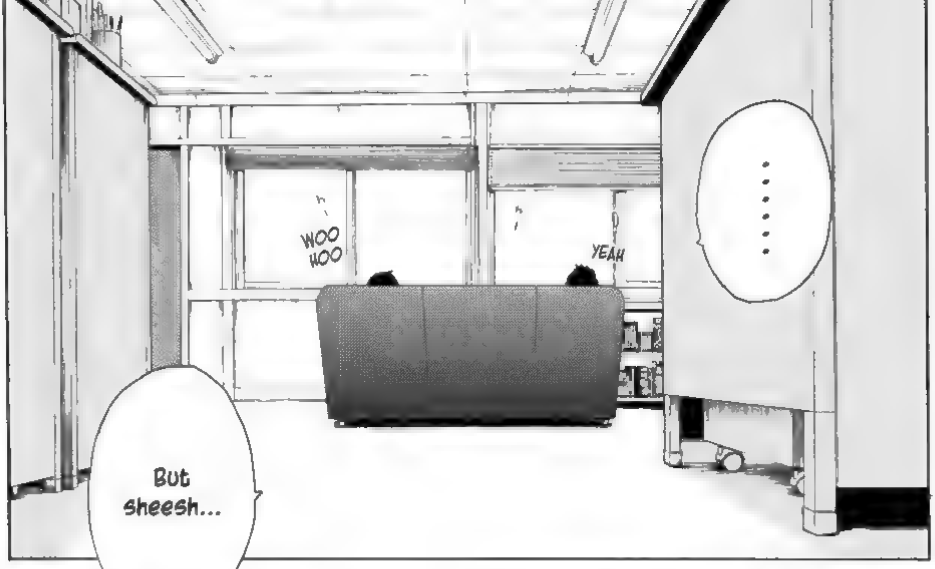
Oh? Hey, Kyosuke.
ひょこ
PEEK
...Hey.

ガチャ
CLICK

Oh yeah, it's a special meeting, so you can't be there.
No babysitters.
Don't call me a babysitter.
Yeah.
Can I have some coffee?
Sure.
SIP
HEE HEE
YAY
WOO HOO
YEAH

I see.
Nope.
How about you, Kyosuke?
...Oh yeah, I haven't eaten yet.
ぼ"
DAZED
Should I help?
It's cool.
Okay.
I'll make something.
You'll eat, too, right?
Yeah.
Thanks.
ギュっ
SQUEEZE

What should I make?
.....
Don't force yourself.
But...
Look at this masterpiece!
Eat up!
Beef Bowl
...Thanks.
Mm...your cooking is always good.
Thanks.
It's nice and juicy.
MUNCH MUNCH


WOO HOO
YEAH
.....
But sheesh...

Huh?

...it's really quiet without those rowdy three.
What, You're lonely?

コン KNOCK
コン KNOCK
ぐっ GRIP
Okay.
Hmmm...
Touka!!
Oh, hey.
ガチャ CLICK
ちらっ PEEK
Hello...
I came to visit.

Ugh...
Oh.
Hee hee hee.
ZWISH
Er...
Why are you...I told you not to go out!!
Aaaaghh! Shhh!
Kyo-chan only talks about Touka-chan during confession.
Oh?
TA-DA
I'm accompanying her.
Do you have a problem with that, Kyo-chan?
Yae-san!
Oh, right.
I did it again...
Touka-chan, your leg...

Oh. I heard that it's only you and Akina-san today...
FLAP
Touka!
Why are you here?
It'll be better by next week anyway...
Hee hee.
GLANCE
But...
...so I brought food.
It's beef bowl.
It's not that good though.

Okay.
I'll take it.
Thanks for bringing it.

He's already eating one.
And it looks better than mine.
ごくん GULP
MUNCH MUNCH
もぐもぐ
DOWNHEARTED
しょぼん…

Oh...you're welcome!
はぁ SHINE あ

にやり SMIRK SMIRK
……
It's a lot.
Here you go!

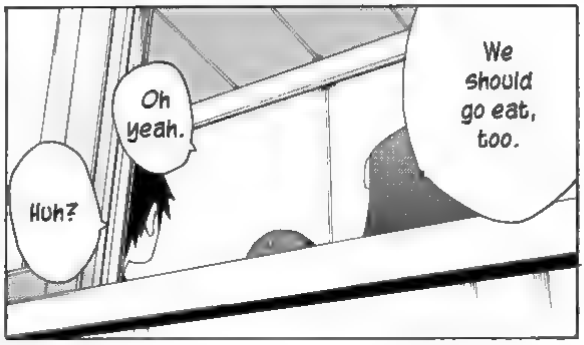
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH

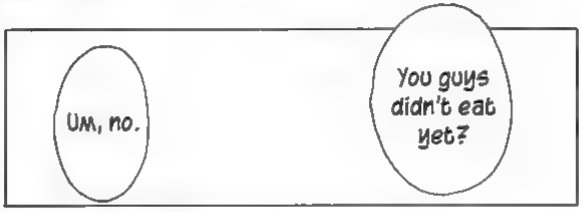
Hurry!
If it gets cold, it'll taste worse!
THUMP

.....
All right, Touka-chan.

Oh... okay!
Worse!
SHINE

Oh. You should've told me.
Thank you for the food.


We should go eat, too.
Oh yeah.
Huh?


You guys didn't eat yet?
Um, no.

Really?
You're going to make us food!?
Akina-san's food...
Touka-chan, you're drooling.

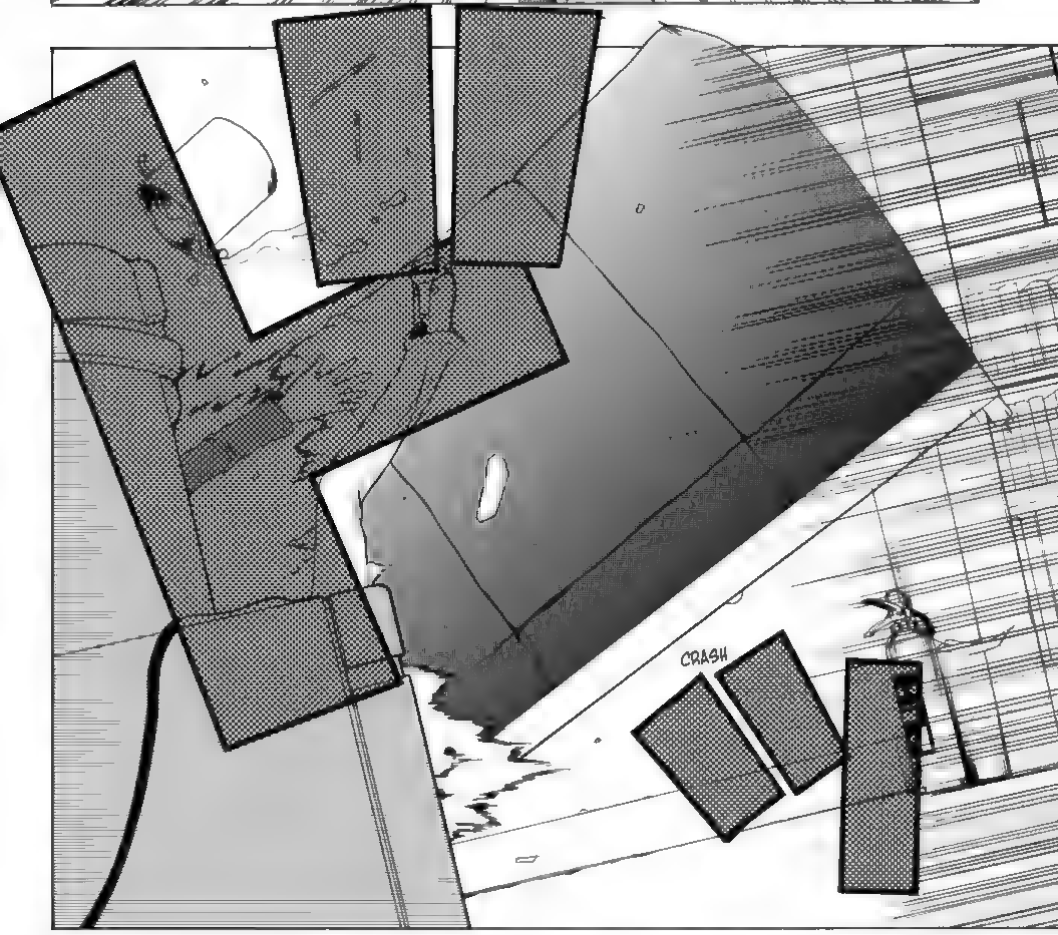
I'll make something then.
You came all the way here, so take your time.

Sure!
Just wait a bit.
……
もぐもぐ
MUNCH MUNCH
ぽっ
BLUSH
Aren't you glad, Touka-chan?
ピク
TWITCH
Your favorite Akina is making your lunch!
Oh, Yae-san...
あたふた
PANIC
あたふた
PANIC
SWING SWING
...it's not like I'm...
ぐっ
GRIP

...I mean...
SWING
Damn...
DASH

You...
GRAB
Akina!!
VOOSH
WHIP
Urgh!

Huh?


CRASH

Akina!!

CLANG
ガラ
CLANG
ガラ
Uh...
I'm fine, I'm fine.
CLANK
It was a little close though.
I'm used to it because of Hime and Kotoha.
Don't worry about it.
ぺこん
HOP
ぺこん
HOP
I'm so sorry! I'm so sorry! I...
Akina-san!
PHEW
ぺこん
HOP
ぺこん
HOP

Your powers can't be controlled, even with that "shackle" on you!
Shut up!!
It's okay. I'm fine.
Kyo-suke.
Touka! That's why I told you not to go out!
Don't forget it!
You're... we're...
"Demons!"
Urh...
Oh...
This mess.
That's enough. We should clean up.

I'll help, too.
Forget it!
Just go home! What if you cause more trouble?
Uh, okay.
SNIFF
I'll come back another day to apologize...
HOP
Oh.
I'll walk you home, Touka-chan.
No...I'm fine...
Good-bye...
Kyosuke.
I think you were too harsh.
...It's fine.
CLINK
I'm a-i...
THUMP

It's fine.
.....

Oh!
It's Makiharu gramps.
Yeah.
Hiizumi Life Counseling Office
.....
ぎゅ

Makiharu gramps was very awesome!
He was always,
but especially when he was "oyakume!"
Yeah...
CLINK
チャリ...

My stupid power...

HOP
HOP
.....

Hey, Touka!

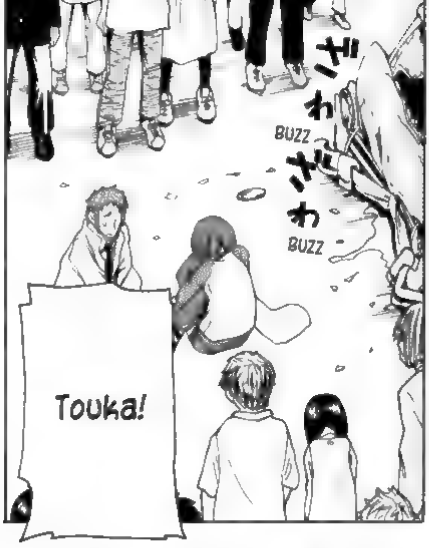
Oh, Kana-chan and Mina-chan?
You're coming back from kindergar-ten?

Why do you look so blue?
Did Akina dump you?
Don't be so rude, Mina...

There they are.
They always leave me, even when I'm only a bit late.
Ah.
He's late! So we just left without him.
I thought Shidou-san picks you up.
VROOM
VWOOOSH
!
BOOM
SCREEEEECH
Huh?
Huh?
Huh?
The car is moving on its own!
VRROOOOOMM
And the brakes don't work!!
OOOM
スチッ
KLUNK
スチッ
KLUNK

!
VRRROOOOOOM
OOOOM
Please move out of the waaaaaaay!
OOOM
SQUEEZE
OW!
WOOSH

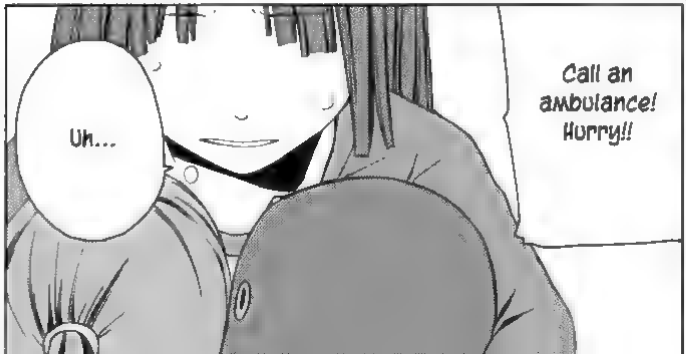
CRACK
CRASH
CRACK
CRACK
That sound...
SLIDE
!


BUZZ
BUZZ
Touka!

DASH
!

Ugh...

Touka! Are you okay!?
Onii-chan...


Uh...
Call an ambulance! Hurry!!

DASH
Hey, is everything all right?
GLARE
GRIND
I can't take this anymore...
DRIP
DRIP
Er...!
I don't want this power...
IF only...
TUG

OW!
THUD
...you would succeed as "oyakume"...
...Touka wouldn't suffer!!

Yozakura Quartet 2

Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

Kyosuke Kishi

Age: 18

Hobbies:
reading

Favorites

Food:
beef bowl

Music Group:
Eldar Djangirov

Comedian:
Chidori

Uchi-P Member:
Fukawa

Little-Known Fact:
He is from Okayama.

Idiot!
We won't die just from that.
We're not like humans!
Oh.
That's right...
I just lost it...
You think us vampires are that weak!? Eh?
ピコ
SQUEAK!
ピコ
SQUEAK
Urg...
Sure.
Can I have more blood?
Now, now.
We should just be glad we're all safe.
Yeah?
All of this happened because of you!
Ouch!
ピコ!
SQUEAK!

It's weird. The brakes and wheel just didn't work all of a sudden.
MUMBLE MUMBLE
Where's Akina and Kyosuke?
It's because you came charging at us with your car! You should be maintaining the car better! Idiot!
GRRR
GRRR
Sorry...
They finally calmed down.
They're in the waiting room.
.....

7th Night: Moving Forward (Part 2)

.....

.....
Are you guys done?

...are suffering in this town just because you won't succeed as "oyakume"!?
Stop it.
How many demons do you think...
Akina!
There's no point bringing up...
...the issue about "oyakume" now...
ガタン!
CREAK!

Urgh...
We're trying to rest!
Shut up!!
Stop it, Kyosuke-kun...
Kyo-chan.
If he would only...
You guys are suffering, too, right?
...Urg.
...cut your tongue?
Should I...
CUT

THUMP
I'm going home.
Oh...
We should leave, too, Touka.
Oh. Okay.
Onii-chan...
THUMP
I'll be off, too.
Take care of them, Juri.
Got it.

Oh?
You both don't know yet?
Right...
...Hey, Shidou.
What's "oyakume"?
It regards this town, too.
Where should I start?
I guess it's time to tell both of them about it.
Yeah.
?

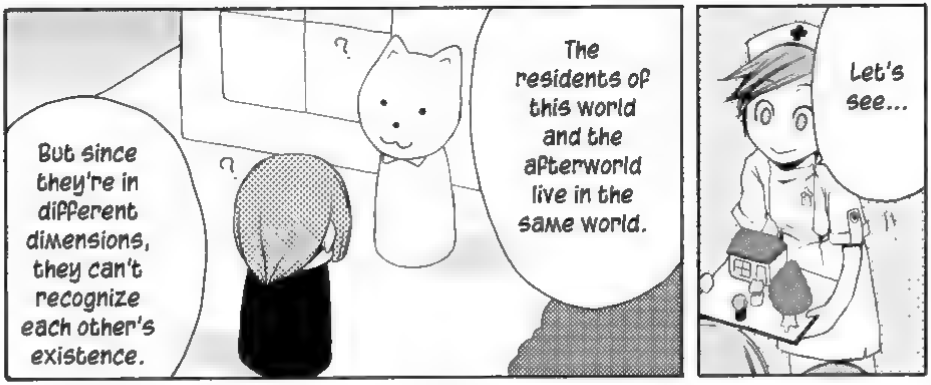
SSSHIPP
Did you ever wonder why that's so?
Why...
There are many demons living in this town, right?
The number of demons is enormously high.

All the demons...
...come to Sakurashin Town...
...for one purpose.

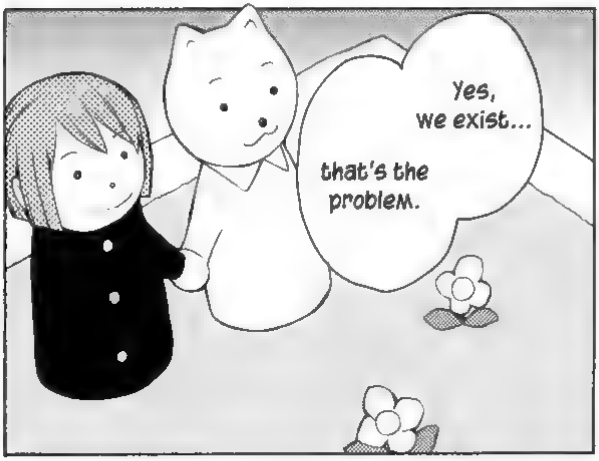
It's easy to live for demons because there are so many?
You're smart.
Well, that's true, too.

Purpose?
SSIPP

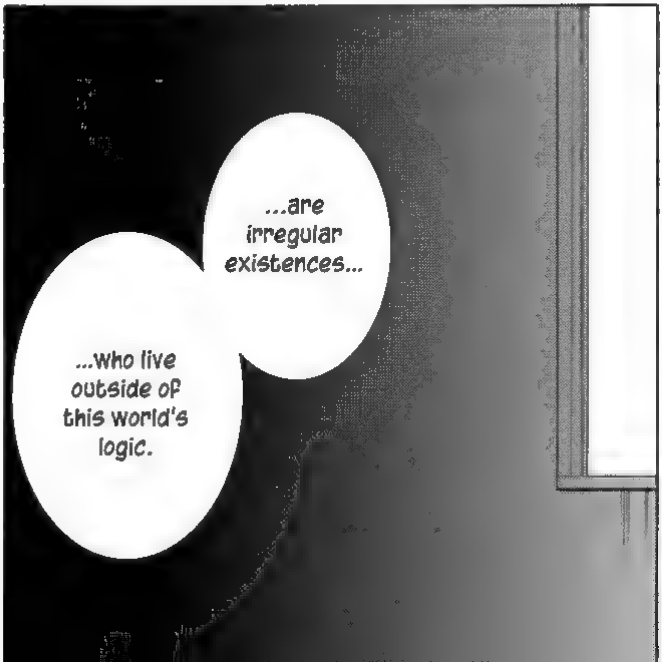
Besides...
...are creatures that live in a different dimension from this dimension.
...demons...
In a place called "afterworld."
After-world!?

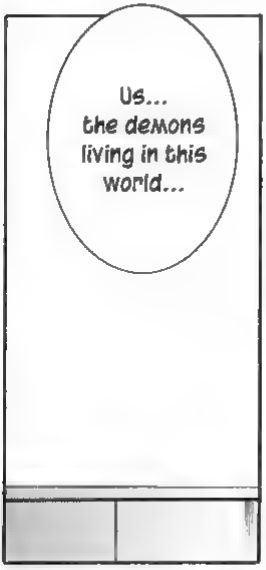

But since they're in different dimensions, they can't recognize each other's existence.
The residents of this world and the afterworld live in the same world.
Let's see...

Right.
But even if so they can't recognize us either.
?
So there might be someone right here at this very moment!?


Yes, we exist...
that's the problem.

But... we're demons, but we're in this world.
Yeah, that's right!

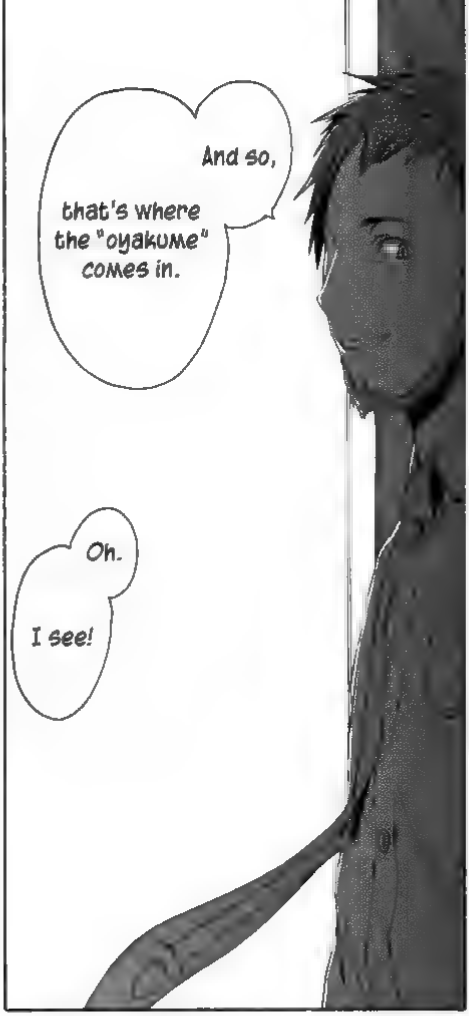

...are irregular existences...
...who live outside of this world's logic.


Us... the demons living in this world...

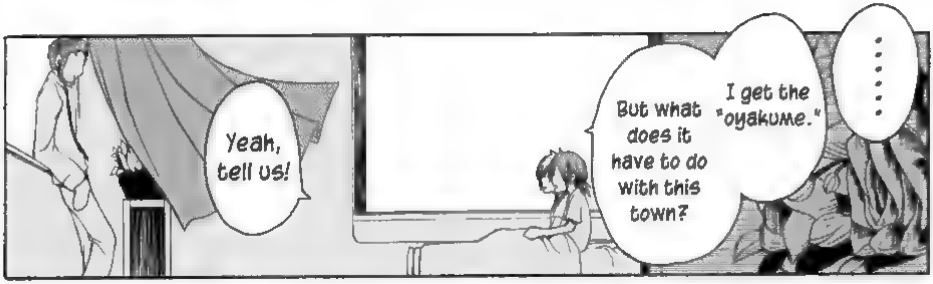
...our powers become unsteady.
Like Touka-chan.
Since we live in a dimension we shouldn't be in...
Irregular...
!!
...is the concept of death.
And the biggest difference between this world and the afterworld...
That's not good!
Our life, as the humans call it, ends.
In the afterworld demons don't die. But in this world we eventually weaken and face death.

Here you go.
Oh, thanks.
You're prepared.

When there's static on the radio, you tune it to make it clear, right?
Yeah.
That's the basic idea.


And so, that's where the "oyakume" comes in.
Oh. I see!

"Tuning" is done to match the demons living in this world to the afterworld.
That is what the Hizumi family's been doing for generations.
The person who succeeds it is the "oyakume."


Yeah, tell us!
But what does it have to do with this town?
I get the "oyakume."
.....

Tuning...
...can't be done just anywhere.
A marker...
You need a "marker" that exists both in this world and the afterworld.

That's right.
...Oh!
Landmark?
And that marker is this town's landmark. Can you guess what it is?

The seven spiritual sakura that exists in both dimensions,
the Seven Pillars.
Sakurashin Town is surrounded by those pillars.

.....
HOP
HOP
PIT
PAT

What's wrong, Touka?
My foot hurts.
Carry me.

STOP

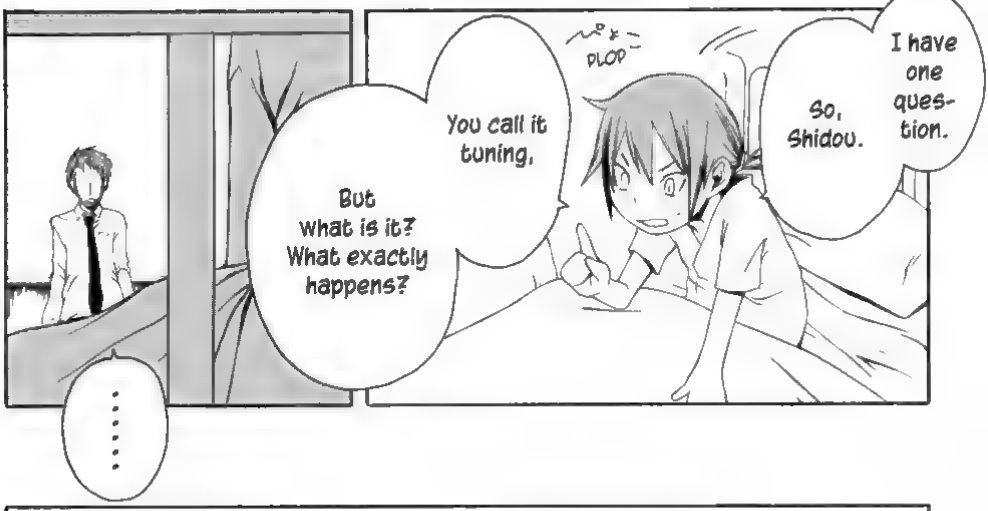
Carry me.
What are you saying? Let's go.
Just do it.
I used to get picked on as a kid... and you always carried me home. Remember?
Yeah?
Onii-chan.
Just like this...
.....

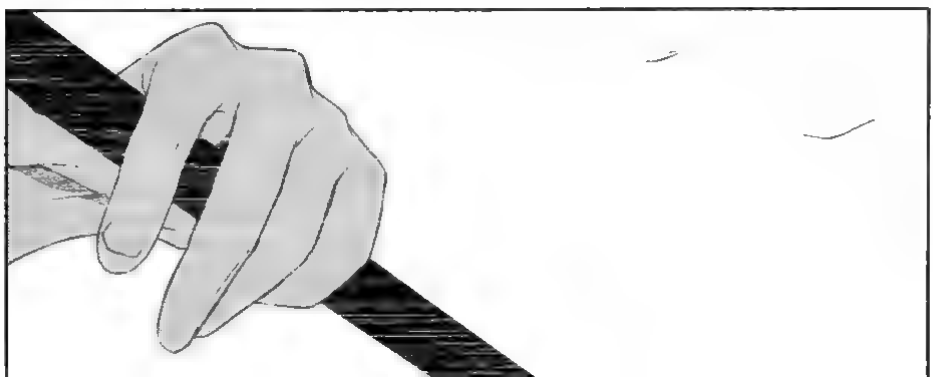
Don't pick on me!
We won't!
RRROOOOAAARR
Don't make stuff up!
I don't have memories of that!
Darn...
But Akina-san wasn't scared of you and played with you.
It was more like fighting than playing.
You had a hard time controlling your powers as a kid, too.
And you didn't have that many friends.
.....
Hey, Onii-chan.
Did you ever think about it?
Huh?
.....
♪~

The meaning of what the "oyakume" carries...
...So you're really okay with it?
I can't cause any more trouble.
To the residents of this town, and also to Hime.

Please watch her for me.
Don't worry. She's almost stronger than you.
You're so strong. You want to do it while Hime is sleeping?
She's going to cry.
She won't let me do it.
...I will.
She's only pretending.
Please take care of her, Akina-kun.
I will.

Hmmm.
I think I understand, but I'm not sure yet.
Take it one at a time.


I have one question.
So, Shidou.
PLOP
You call it tuning,
But what is it? What exactly happens?
.....



SST
...That's easy.

They disappear.
From this dimension... from this world.
...but their connection to this dimension is cut off.
They could live normally in the other dimension...
!

That's why the Hiizumi family calls the "oyakume"...
..."killers."
That's how they see it.

.....
Are you ditching?
RIN

Hey, Rin-chan.
Yes?
Yep. I'm ditching.
Then I'll join you!
As much as you want!
WHUMP

We had bad experiences elsewhere, so we all came here.
.....
Of course! Everyone came for that reason.
Did you come to this town to go to the afterworld?
PLOP
The town where we die.
For us demons, this town is the end of the road.
Do you...want to go to the afterworld? Or not?
.....
But, after we live here for a while, we don't want to leave.

You already should know the answer!
GRIN
.....

Oh.
.....
I see.
Thanks for your precious opinion.

Yozakura Quartet 2

Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

Touka Kishi

She's the one who changed the most from the primary stages.

Age: 16

Hobbies:
archery, listening to music

Favorites

Food:
beef bowl

Music Group:
ROCO

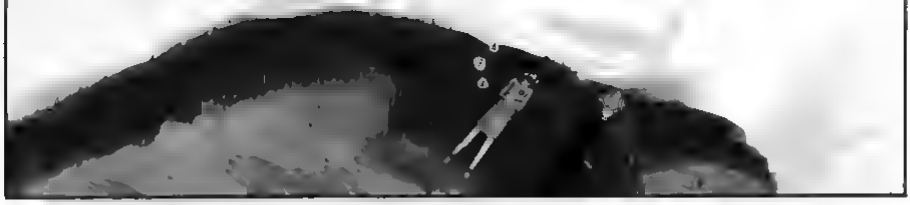
Comedian:
Chidori

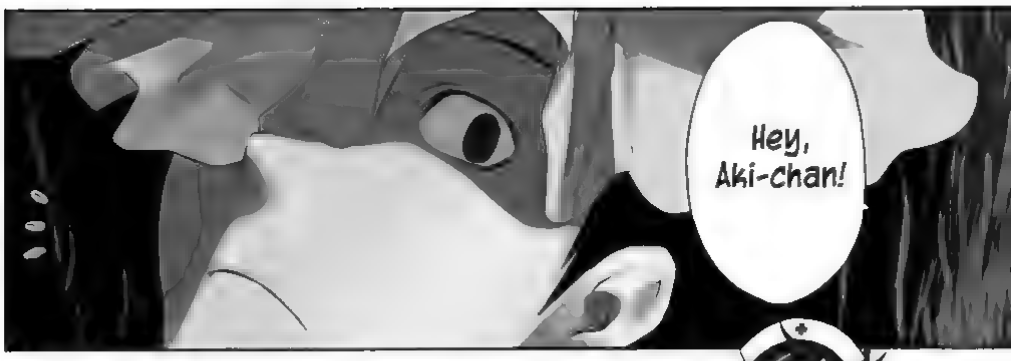
Uchi-P Member:
Golgo

Little-Known Fact:
She is from Okayama.

...is about getting involved with others.
Living...
You might still be too young to understand.
Yeah.
Then let me ask you this.
And the severance of that connection with others is "death." That's what I think.
By getting involved with others, "proof that you lived" is created.
.....
Are you prepared to kill people?

8th Night:
Moving Forward
(Part 3)




Hey, Aki-chan!

Phew.
Oh, right.
We should've done it at the hospital.

It's time for your health check!
You didn't do it yet this month.
PIT
PAT

Where's Kyosuke?
He went home.
With Touka-chan and Yae.

ZZZZ
Okay.
Every-thing is fine.
Every-thing's fine?
Okay, done.
Everything is fine!
CLASP
Phew
Thanks, Juri-san.
Then I'm going.
To do what?
To get angry!
?
.....

He's about to say something he's not supposed to!
はっ
GASP
Touka, you know...
PANT
PANT
You said it!
You're heavy...
Did you gain weight?
ボカ
ボカ
BONK
BONK
Whoa
ズル
SLIP
Why would it weigh so much?
This is because my cast weighs about 70 kg*!
おも
おも
BONK
BONK
フラ
フラ
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
Aagh!
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
Oh, my.

*150 lbs

Kyosuke!
ヘアー!!
TAKE
How dare you slug me!
Did you forget that you owe me for picking on you when we were kids?
Yo.
Akina!
I owe you nothing!

Besides!
PAT
PIT
You also beat me up earlier... so we're even. Besides, what I owe you is not gratitude. It's revenge!
Onii-chan, calm down!
You have sister complex!
SMIRK
GRR!
I see...
It's not just us! The other demons, too!
If you would just succeed as "oyakume," Touka and I could live happily in the afterworld!

Here.
SLIDE
DODGE
FLIP
Urgh!
TURN
VWOOSH
You...!
Hey, Kyosuke.
Damn it...!
GRIP
You know,
Whoever said...
WOOSH

...that I didn't succeed as "oyakume?"
But you never...
Hmph.
What?

CRACKLE
I could send her there now.
Noo!
Did you want me to try it here, then?
Oh!
GRAB
Hold it! Calm down!
I am calm.
If you want me to hold it, then do as I say.
...What?
Okay. First off...
...take off your shackle!
...?
...?

THUMP
CLICK
Just hurry it up!
But if I take it off, my powers are going to be released. Is that okay?
...slug me with all you've got!!
WHIP
I took it off.
Good.
Then...

Every kid would be scared of our powers and wouldn't come close.
But you would always come by and pick on us!
I don't get it!
...
Ugh. He never makes any sense!
?
?
?
You were always like that!
Huh?
...and give it to me. Or are you scared of the pay-back?
FLICK
FLICK
You sister complex bastard!
GRR!
And now you want me to slug you with my demon power?
Be serious! A human body won't be able to take it...
Just shut up...

ブアッ
VOOSH
You...!!
WHACK
Ow!!
Uh, Akina?
.....
HESITATING
おず
TWITCH
ピク
TWITCH
ピク
GASP
ドサッ
THUMP
Oops

Uh, it actually looks really painful...
Are you okay?
I'm telling you it doesn't hurt!

WAKE UP
ガば
It doesn't hurt!!
!

Uh...
Akina-san!
WOBBLE

Listen! Your powers aren't all that anyway! You don't need tuning!
If it's this weak, even if something happens I'd take care of it!
Why do you think we have the office?

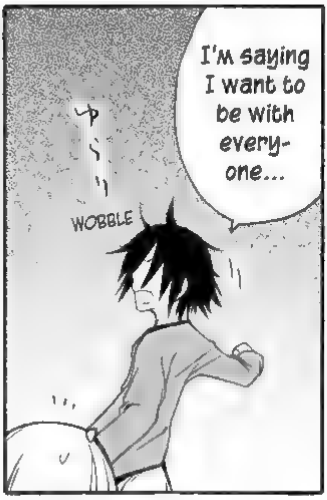
If I can't handle it on my own...
...then...

.....
Got it?
...I'll send you to the afterworld with my own hands!!
ZWISH

Hmph!
Right?
...isn't it easier to send us there rather than protecting us?
But...

I don't want to say good-bye to any of the demons in this town.
To anyone!
This is my selfish reason!!

.....


I'm saying I want to be with every-one...
WOBBLE

What?
You're just saying that because you don't want to part with Touka!
Onii-chan, what are you saying!?
But I'm not going to approve of it!
HMPH
Hey!

...and that includes you, idiot!
WHACK
Ah, that felt good!
BRIGHT RED
THUD
Onii-chan!
PFOOSH
I won't forgive you for pretending to tune Touka.
What if some mistake happened!?
Uh...
Urgh... but still.

Ooh! I said it!
If I become damaged goods,
please take responsibility for it!!
TA-DA
トゥカ!
When that happens...
Uh, Touka-chan?
I see...
WOBBLE

POW
ボカ
Oh no...
KAPOW
ボカ
Just leave them.

RRROOOAAARRR
CRACKLE CRACKLE
It seems that you've gotten far with my sister, eh?
You're scary!
You're much scarier than before!!

So that's what this is all about.
.....

He could already control his powers.
Akina believed in him and let him slug him.

There's no way Akina could be okay getting hit by demon powers.
Huh?

HONK
Thank you very much!
Hey!

Well, it's still a little danger-ous.
Maybe we'll make a new shackle that doesn't strain the body so much.
Right, Juri?
Oh...

Okay.
I can't handle them on my own...

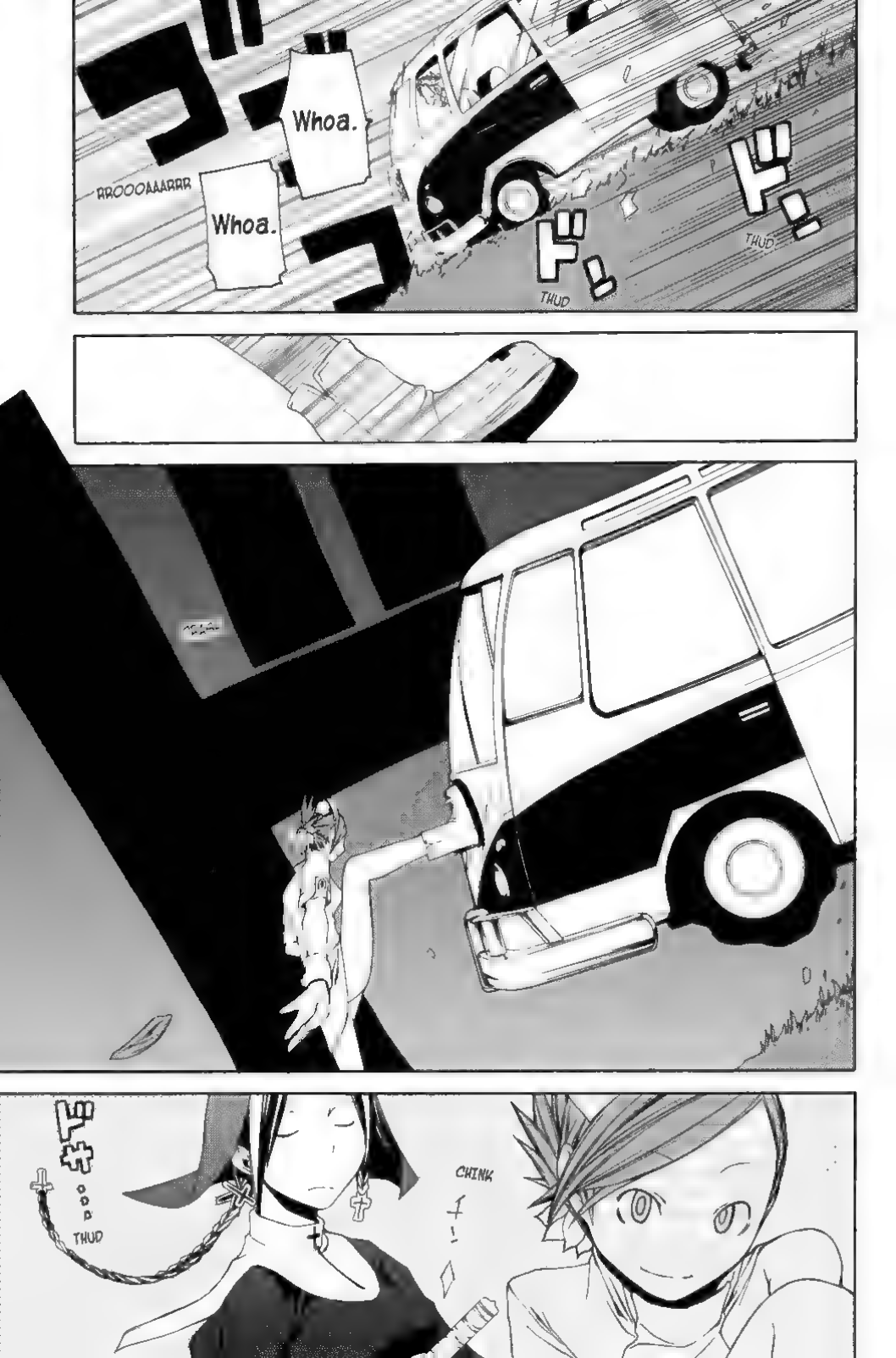
Juri-san! Those two are making a fuss. Can you come back?
Loaned car
PUT
PUT
PUT
PUT

KUNK
KUNK
HM?

SHOCK
So that means...
The brakes and wheel don't work.
KUNK
スカ
スカ
SCREECH
VROOOOM
Not again!!
Gee whiz.
SST

"Fresh Spring."
What a troublemaker.
"Spring Breeze."
VOOSH

"Fresh Spring Breeze."
VOOOSH
WHAP
Whoa.
KLUNK
Here.
WOOSH


Whoa.
Whoa.
AROOOAAARRR
THUD
THUD
CHINK
THUD

Uh... huh?
I'm sorry...
Beware of "cat burglars."
Can you stop getting controlled so easily?

Oh, it's this late already?

And I'm returning to the hospital.
I have a promise with my brother to eat dinner.
See you.
Oh, okay.

If you do it again, I'll slice you up. ♡
SLINK
SLINK
I'm really sorry! I'll be careful.

They're so scary...
Thank you!
Bye!

.....
.....
I don't want a fox to call me a cat burglar...

CRACKLE
CRACKLE
Until that time comes...
Well, it's good to at least know that he succeeded as "oyakume."
CRACKLE
...don't let the Hiizumi blood die.
CRACKLE
CRACKLE

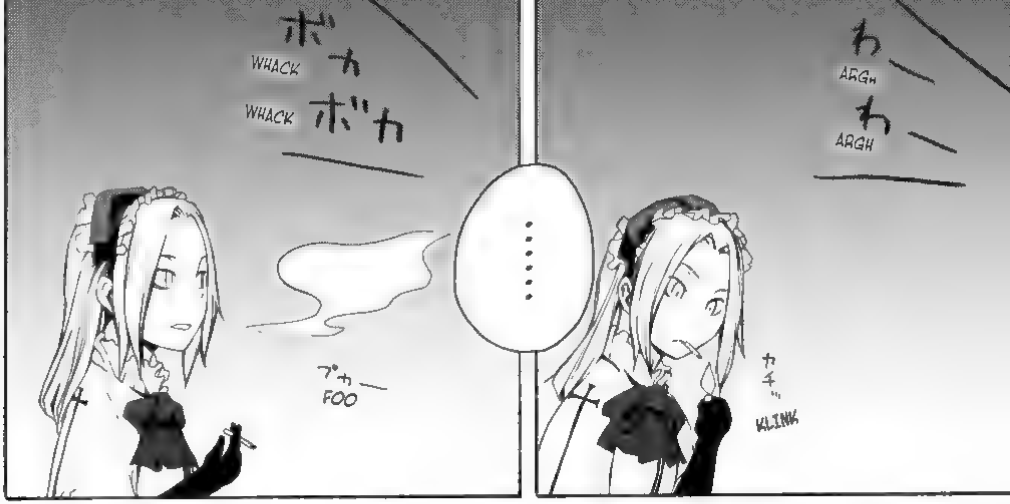
District Mayor Agency
Conference Room #7
Routine Special Meeting
Let me read aloud.
Until I arrive, self-study under my secretary...
"I am going to eat with my sister first, so I will be late.
...respectfully."
.....

That ends the message from the District Mayor.
So...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

Why are you making a fuss?
Self-study? Is this a high school!? Eh!?

You can't be serious!!
...please start studying.

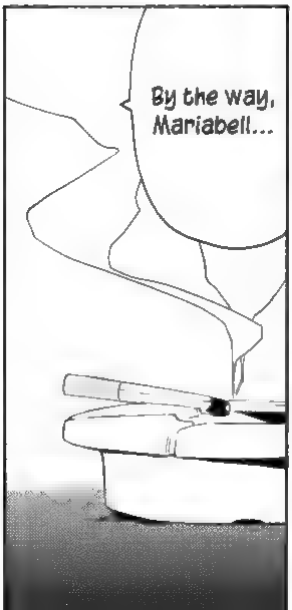
Damn it. Everyone's messing with me...
MUMBLE MUMBLE
Because I have homework.
I had a valid reason...hey! Why are you really self-studying?
WAITE WAITE
That's right, shut up! You were late, too.
I told you to shut up!
What!?
And let me predict something.
...and what's this news about a nine-year-old going against me for mayor next month!?
This district is weird! Right?
The District Mayor is irresponsible, there is a high school girl mayor...
!
...will lose to that nine-year-old.
You...


ボカ
WHACK
ボカ
WHACK
わー
ARGH
わー
ARGH
……
プカー
FOO
カチ…
KLINK

ゲホゲホ
COUGH
COUGH
My throat hurts.
It's a Medical cigarette.
This is gross!

Oh, District Mayor.
Smoking isn't good for your health.

ポト
PLOP


By the way, Mariabell...

You don't have to stop them?
Let them fight.
They don't get along anyway.

...what's up with your outfit?
BLINK
I dressed as you requested.
?
I think I asked for a maid outfit, not Gothic Lolita.
This isn't it?
Well, it's fine.
I'll enjoy that for tonight.
All right.
Yuhi Shinatsuhiko

I'M home!
A week later
TA-DA
Aloha!
Not German
Germany was so fun!!
Uh... huh?
FLIP
Then I will check the daily log!
What happened while I was gone?
German soil is made of gunpowder.
Really!?
It's going to get rowdy again...
Oh well.

There were no cases?
Hmm.
What is this? There's nothing written in here.
BLANK
You're right...
Huh? By the way...
Yeah, nothing happened.
I see...
Nothing happened!
Right?
GRIN

You said you had stuff to do.
Ao, what were you doing?
Huh?
...
Kotoha was in Germany.
With my low pay.
...that day, Hime had a meeting.
It's work.
Me? I was...
...out buying summer clothes.
And a headband.
You were ditching!
So it was something stupid!!

Yozakura Quartet 2

Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

Akina

In "oyakume" mode

A new demon resident?
Yes, I know about it.

Can you take care of her?
Sure.

It's unusual for you to come directly.
I thought I'd get dibs on her.
Come back to me in five years.
I'll take care of you then.
Sir!
Heh, heh. I'm just kidding.
Then I'm leaving it up to you.

Sheesh!
.....
FLINCH
LET GO
Then, let's go.
Oh...
SST
Let's go.
.....
That was...
That was the day cherry blossoms first bloomed for that year.

...spring two years ago.

9th Night: Your Name Is

Anyway, so that's the deal.
You should live in this town for a while,
...before you think about tuning and stuff.
In this town?
Yup.
If something comes up, you can come to this office for help.
.....
Are you an employee of this office?
Me?
No, I'm the mayor.
This is a privately owned company.

Huh? The door's open...oh, it's you, Hime.
Stop hanging out here!!
Hello, Hime-sama.
BUZZ
BUZZ
The employees are...oh, maybe they're back.
CLICK
CLICK
That's the director of this office.
Don't call me "that."
Oh, is she the new resident?
I'm Akina Hiizumi.
Nice to meet you.
I am Kyosuke Kishi.
Nice to meet you.
I'm the director, but also the only employee.
But if something comes up, feel free to come here.
.....
Hiizumi
Counseling
Office

Hello! I heard we're getting a new resident today.
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
Oh, she's already here.
I'm Kotoha Isone! Nice to meet you!
I'm Touka Kishi.
I'm Ao Nanami.
Oh...
Um, nice to meet...
...you...
.....
MUMBLE MUMBLE
WHAP
Uh...
Your bandages... we should rewrap them.
...Nice to meet you.
Oh.

Don't worry.
.....
GRIN
...that's the deal,
so you could stay here for a while.
Make yourself at home.
Okay. I'm going.
All right. Thanks.
So...
Yeah, don't be reserved.
That's my line.

わ
CHATTER
わ
CHATTER
Heh heh heh... this Old Maid battle has gone on for two months and 500 matches. It's reaching climax...
Currently in 1st place
Close 2nd
3rd place
Urg...
CRACKLE
.....
Hey! Wait a minute!

There's a crock right here!!
I think you heard "CROCK!" See?
I don't know what you're talking about!!
I heard the "CRACKLE!"
I know you read my mind right now!!
Don't!!
If I destroy this office now, this game would be nullified...
CRACK CRACK
How immature!!
SHOCK
ガーン
Now which one could it be?
Then I'll do it, too!!
Joker joker joker joker joker joker joker!!
Welcome back.
It's rowdy.
I'm back!
.....
BUZZ
わぁわぁ

Hey, you.
Come sit here.
Uh, yes.
So...
GULP
...I'll be straightforward about it.
We're going to restrict your activity in this town.
!

Unfortu-
nately,
I'm not
that gullible
to trust
someone I
met today.
It's not that
easy living in
society.
So as long
as you live
in this town,
you have to
abide by our
rules.
GRIP
.....
So this
town is
no differ-
ent...
I under-
stand.
I will...
obey you.
Good.
Then...

I've already arranged it for you.
TAP
...For starters, go to school!
Huh?
.....
That's it!
You could earn your tuition there!
And I found you a place to live and work.
.....

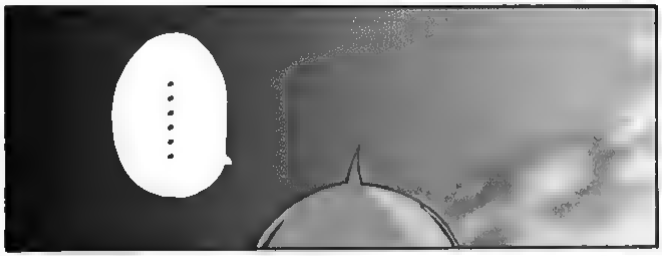
Although these guys use theirs too much.
You don't need me to be locked up? You're not forbidding me to use my powers?
You should be careful.
Nope.
That's it.
Why?
Uh, that's it?
Oh, okay.
Oh, geez.
You said you're going to restrict my activity, so I thought...
You'll be okay.
Hime, you shouldn't have said it like that! Anyone would be scared!
There, there.
What? I'm the bad guy here?
SNIFF

It's nothing to shove the demons that come to this town and hide them somewhere.
But instead of doing that, we want the demons to live in this town as an individual.
By interacting with others, "proof that you existed" will form.
Those are the words of the former owner... the founder of this office.
Who was my grandfather.
.....
We're not going to chain you down.
That's right. It's not like restriction, but more like, "let's get chummy with us and the town residents!"
That's right. Rather than a chain, think of it as red string.

That's not right.
Oh, really?
Hee hee...is that true?
I thought I would be...
But gee...

...that's in the way.
It is. You have a cute face. Don't hide it.
FLAP
FLAP
Oh...
What's your name?
Huh?
Here.
It's made by cutting off a piece of the Seven Pillars.
I had Yae-san make a replacement for that.
But I'm a Jiang Shi, so I can't live if I take this off.
Oh yeah.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
Oh, um...it's Rin.
...That's a good name.
WRITE
WRITE

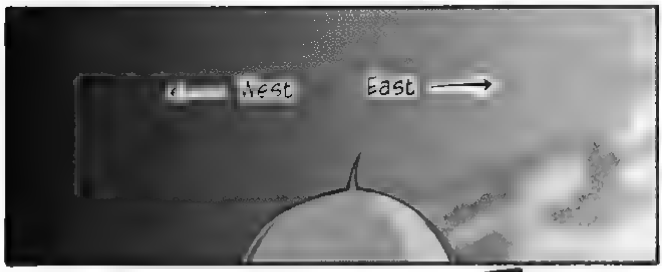
People could remember your name easily too.
PLOP
RIN
Here.
Oh...
Thank you very much...
RIN
Then you're a resident starting today!



Shoot, I fell asleep...

I'm made of delivering food too...

It's already early evening...



I wonder if Hime-san is mad.

But she's so weird to ask me to deliver to the district meeting room...

Oh, a text message.

PEEP

PEEP
PEEP
Oh, Ao-chan sent me a message, too.
And Kotoha-chan.
Oops. My boss...
PEEP
PEEP
From: Hime
Subject: My...
Ramen...
I should go apologize later.
PEEP
PEEP
PEEP

Okay!
CLAMP
Then I'll work hard today, too!

And maybe I'll give them a new dish as an apology, too.

And I end up making the food.

Yozakura Quartet 2

Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

2

Age: 15

Hobbies:
eating at various places

Favorites

Food:
dumplings

Music:
cymbals

Comedian:
Kirin

Uchi-P Member:
Megu no Yasu

Little-Known Fact:
Although she is a Jiang Shi, she ages.

Rin
-san

Uh, hello, everyone!
It was busy during the beginning of spring and we couldn't go flower viewing,
so I thought we should have a rewarding party for the office...

...but for some reason the party has become huge.
Can you hear me in the back?
CHATTER
th
th
CHATTER

10th Night: Cherish the Moment

Look, everyone brought food, too.
Well, I'm thankful for that.
Phew
Well, I don't care, really.
SLURP
Don't be so rigid.
We're playing pretend. It's water, so you can drink it.
Gotcha.
It's the bottle she always carries around.
Whoa, whoa.
Uh...
The office does do a lot for us!
So come on, drink up!!
SLIIIIDE
Hm?
Chug! Chug! Chug!
Mina, the inside of the bottle today...

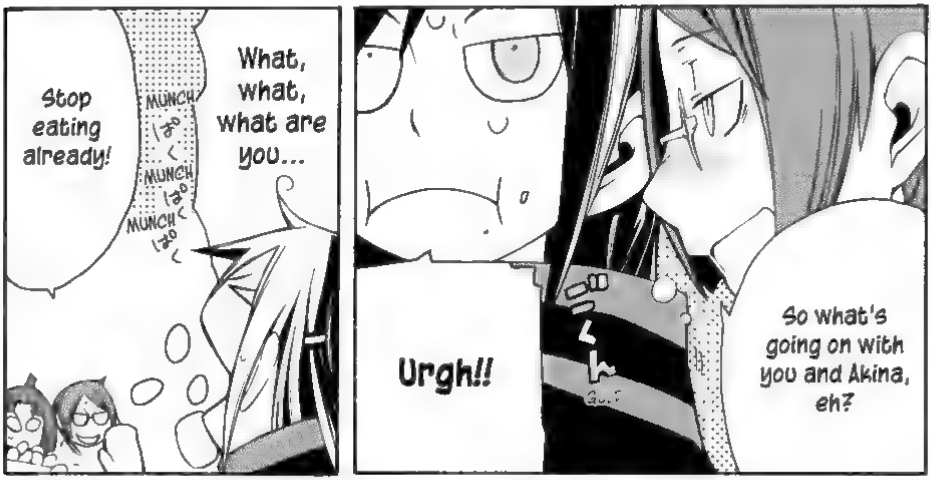
Under age
BLECH!
Pure rice wine daiginjo, "Kiku Hime!"
It's a real treat!!
What are you doing? What a waste!
Why is a kid like you drinking this!?
Idiots!
Even if I'm a mix of a vampire and a mermaid, I get sick of just blood and water!!
I need to quench the thirst in my life!!
Then drink Milk or something!
Urgh...
DIZZY
DIZZY
I can't take alcohol!
THUD
Akina-san!
Hmph.
How pathetic. Taken down by alcohol...
GULP
You get drunk because your spirit is weak.
Coke→

HMM.
SWING
SWING
There are people like that.
Oh, he's drunk from coke.
Listen, Touka. It's times like these when a strong spirit prevails...
Onii-chan!
LECTURE LECTURE
The poor chicks! At least I'll eat them so your souls won't go to waste!!
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
Oh my gosh, she's a crying drunk and an eating drunk!?
And who brought this pile of boiled eggs anyway!?
I'm completely drunk!!
FADED
Ugh...

I have to work hard!
...I have to be the tsukkomi today!!
You're usually the boke.
Onii-chan and Akina-san are passed out. That means...
GASP
I see... so how are things with you in that aspect, Shidou-kun?
Huh?
That's right, since there are so many girls here...
Well, this isn't bad once in a while.
Just like Mina said, life needs to be quenched.
A high school girl!
So how's Kotoha-chan?
ZUI
Stop it, Yae-san...

SHOCK
I see.
SHINY
SHINY
Sorry!
I like girls!
Only girls!!

HMM...
Shidou, bring more alcohol!
I didn't expect anything, but she could've been more tactful...


Stop eating already!
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
What, what, what are you...
Urgh!!
So what's going on with you and Akina, eh?

Rin-chan, I want more ramen!
Well, I'm a...
...Menkui!!
Yeah, that's right.

Well, I'm a Menkui, so...
A Menkui?
How sad...
But he's not that bad looking...

SWISH SWISH
CLATTER
Shoot!
I washed all of my summer clothes today!
WAAAAAAH
You're really crying a lot today.

STARE
HMMM...

But...
...aren't you hot?
You don't have the summer version of your uniform?
UM...
Thanks for the food.

I want Hime to wear a nurse outfit!! She'd be really cute in it!!
What she's wearing is making me hot!!
Hm? Sure. I'll lend you this.
All right! Do it! Do it!!
What a perv...
CLAP
CLAP
And...

...I want to dress up, too!!
As something!
KABOOM!
You suggested it for your selfish reasons!?

You're prepared, Mariabell!!
How many do you have?
SST
Yes.
Give it to her, Mariabell.
Changing.
Yeah...

How's Hime?
GASP
はっ
This is pretty good.
Satisfied
Wow.

It's great!!!!
I can make money off of this!!
Kotoha-chan...
ROAR
Summer clothes are so thin...
SOB
SOB
It's a little chilly...

Everyone, please stop her...hey! Don't start a fashion show here!!
This is really cute.
When did you all change?

Shortcut: Microphone!
I'll express my feelings in a song!!
Stop it, you drunk!

Oh, my.
That group!!
Look! They're doing something weird!!
Oh, Kotoha is singing.
Let's join.

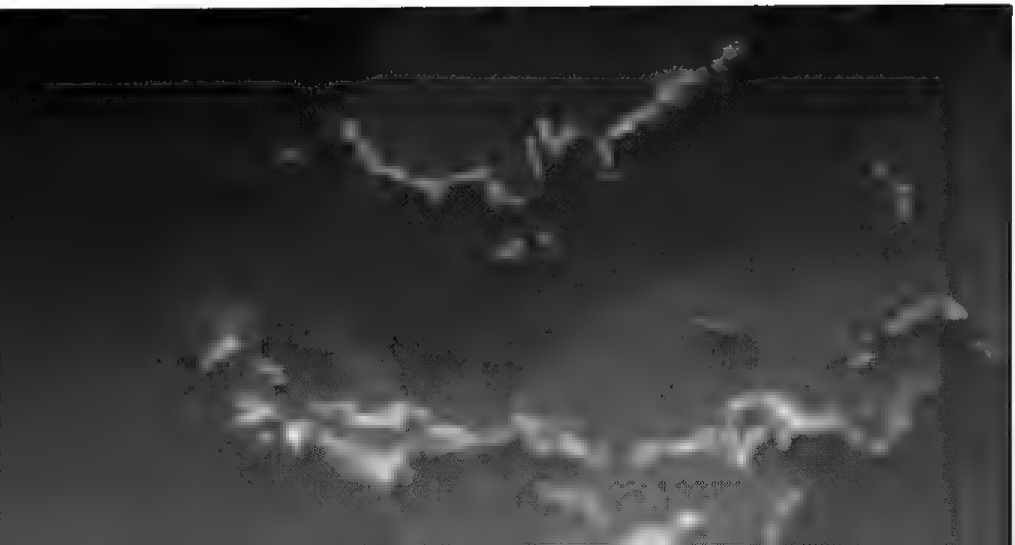
Where's Ao-chan? Oh! She was the first to be knocked out!!
I knew it was too quiet!
SLUMP
Z Z Z

Huh?
CHATTER
CHATTER

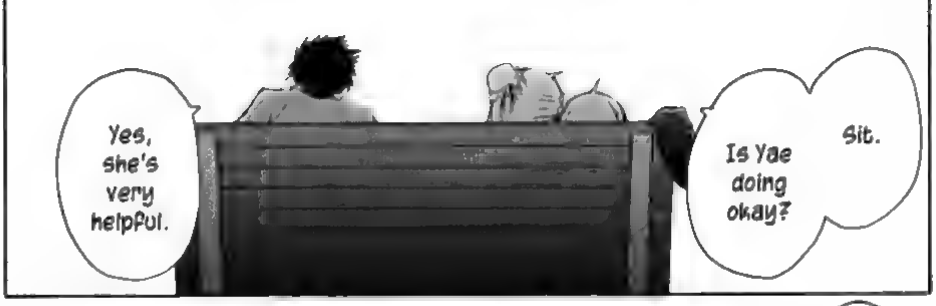
Thanks to everyone here!!
Your tsukkomi got better.

むく
WAKE UP
……

What was this gathering for?
じんちゃん
ROWDY
じんちゃん
ROWDY
わあ
BUZZ
わあ
BUZZ
Oh, the poor duckies!
Thousand-year-old egg
MUNCH MUNCH
ぱく



Clean up thoroughly!
.....
ZZZZ
I'm sorry I fell asleep, Yuhi-san.
Hey, Akina.


Yes, she's very helpful.
Is Yae doing okay?
Sit.

But it's no surprise Yae-san is the way she is.
I keep telling her not to get too involved.
...I hope not too much.

.....
But she's not dignified at all.
That is really what a land god is supposed to do.
Don't get involved, don't be too far. Just watch and protect.

But you also came to our party...
Did you say some-thing?
Nope.
.....
How long do you think we have?
Until the Seven Pillars "bloom."
I'm sure about a year... until next spring.
It's earlier than expected.
It might be earlier than that.

...it is a little loose.
The border between the two dimensions.
Re-cently.
Well...
Oh.
If you can tell that, you're pretty good.
Well, you have a little bit of time.
Do what you can.
There's "him" who wants them to bloom.
Only god knows what will happen.
And there's "you" who tries to stop it.
True.

Worst case, we could sacrifice this entire town.
Right?
.....

Thank you.
For always thinking about us.
.....

Either way, I'm not getting involved.
I'll lend Yae, so do as you wish.
We're leaving, Mariabell.
PINCH
Yes.

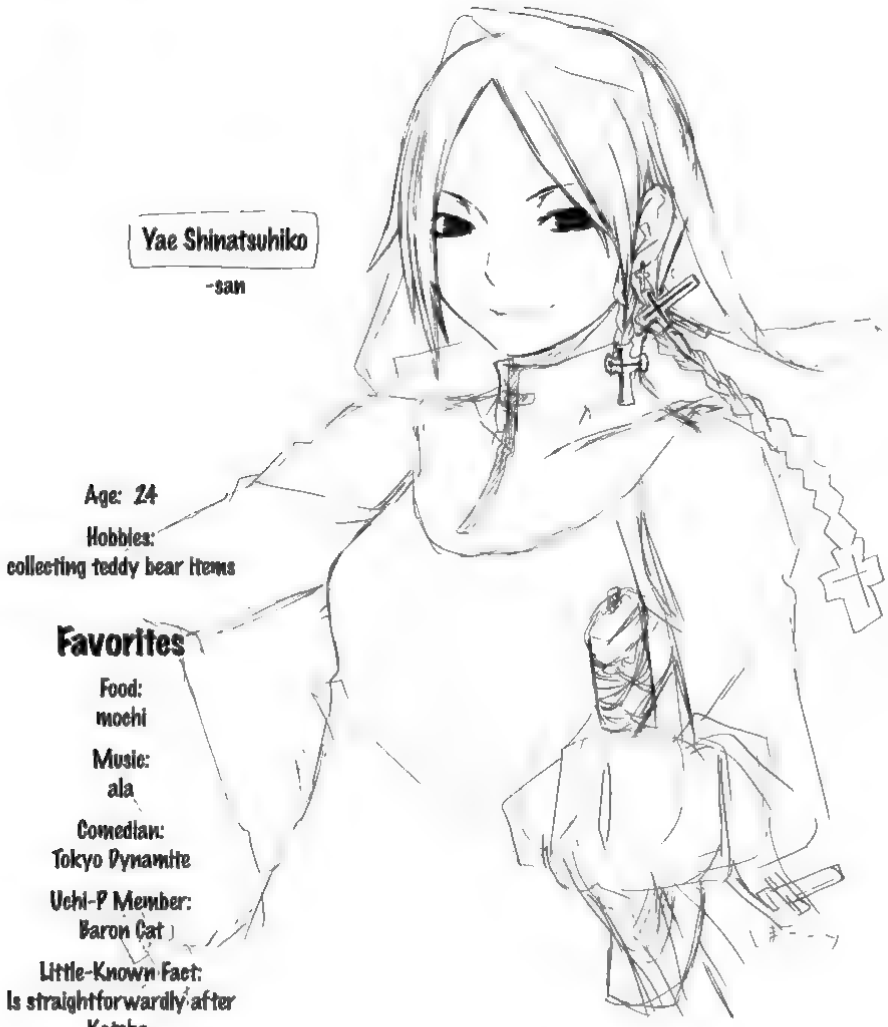
Hmph.
It's not for you guys.
ZWISH

I've been watching the cherry blossoms of this town every year.
For over 200 years.
If I don't see it next year, I'll be disappointed.
That's all there is to it.
See you.
...I'll do my best.

Well, I guess I'll do what I can do.
I want to see it next year, too.
This town's cherry blossoms.
But I should take care of what I need to do first.
These drunks...
zzz

Yozakura Quartet 2

Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet 2



Yae Shinatsuhiko -san

Age: 24

Hobbies:
collecting teddy bear items

Favorites

Food:
mochi

Music:
ala

Comedian:
Tokyo Dynamite

Uchi-P Member:
Baron Cat

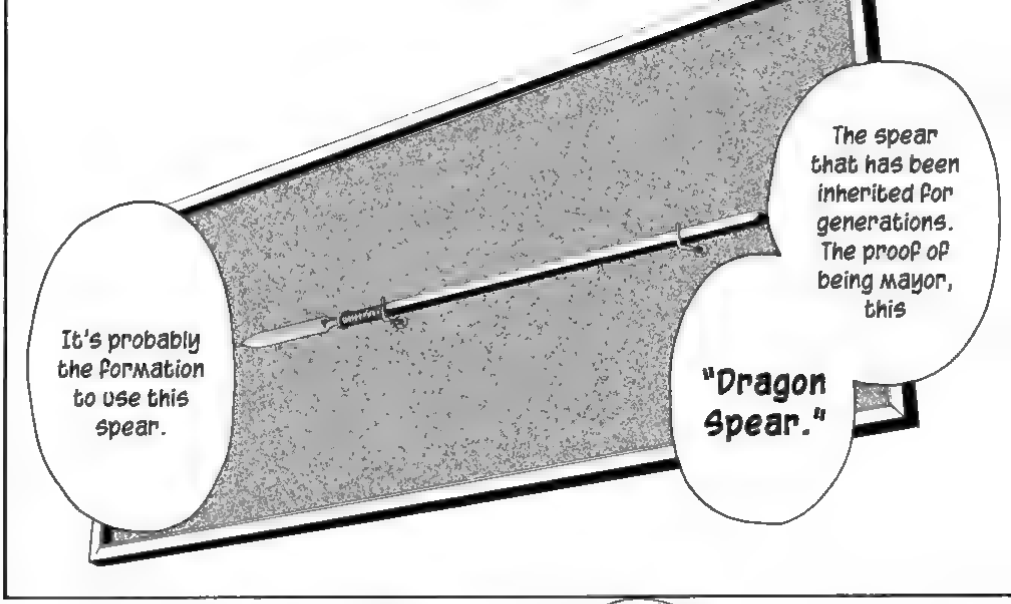
Little-Known Fact:
Is straightforwardly after Kotoha.

"Do not fail to train every day."
"A healthy spirit resides in a healthy body."
We are training every day, just as your grandmother instructed us...
.....
You're making no sense at all.
Please wake up.
DAZED
Don't get cocky! I wasn't sleeping for your sake!!
TWITCH
Oh!
...but you're sleeping.

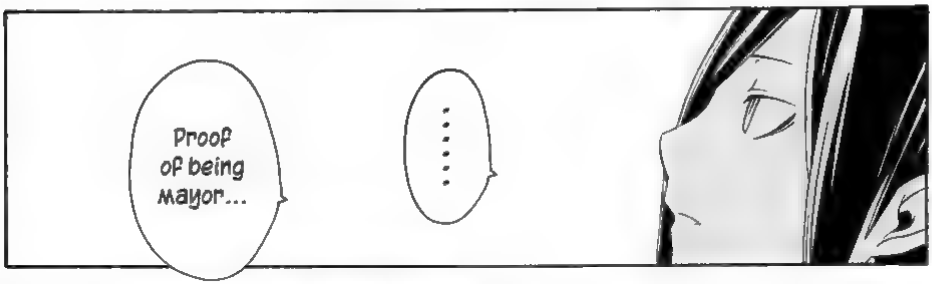
11th Night: Thorny Road (Part 1)

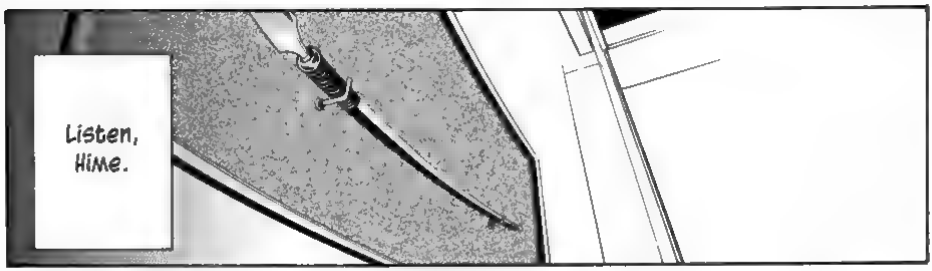
Ninth Formation, "Cloud Slice!"
VWOOSH
Yah!
SWING
SWING
Yah!
Twenty-ninth Formation, "Eight Colors!"
VOOSH
VOOSH
Fourteenth Formation, "Fire Extinguisher!"
SWING
The last Formation...
Ninetieth Formation, "Enclosure!"
VOOSH
BAM
Forty-seventh Formation, "Heavenly Heart!"

"Giant Firework!!"
TWIRL!!
Ow!
ズテーン
WHAM
Hmm...
I do think the last formation is wrong.
But this is the formation grandma taught me, so it should be right.
? ?


The spear that has been inherited for generations. The proof of being mayor, this
"Dragon Spear."
It's probably the formation to use this spear.

Maybe I'll understand if I use it...
GRAB
I cannot allow it. There is no emergency.
Darn.

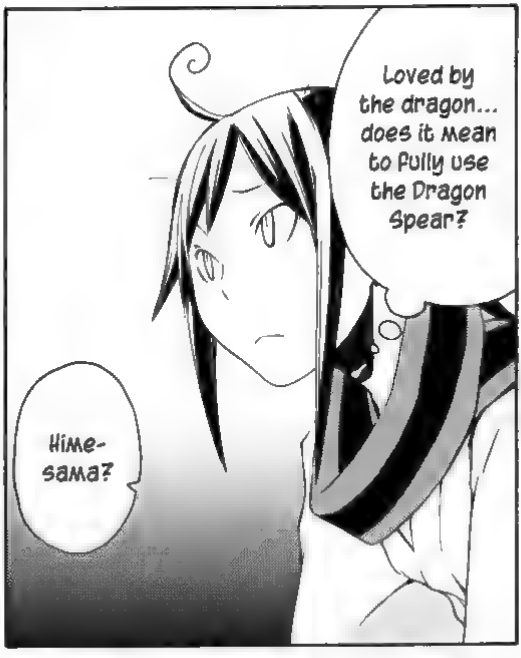

Proof of being mayor...
.....


Listen, Hime.

There are three things you mustn't forget.
Yes.
First, you must be loved by your residents.
Next, you must be loved by the town.
...you must be loved by the dragon.
And last...
This is what is needed to be mayor.

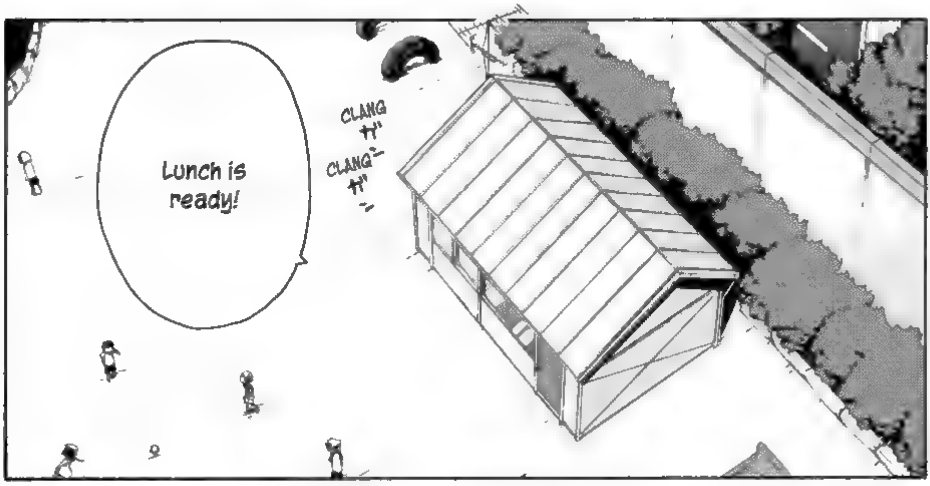
Loved by the dragon...
For that, you need to constantly improve yourself.
I got it, grandma!

What is the matter? You spaced out.
Oh. It's nothing.

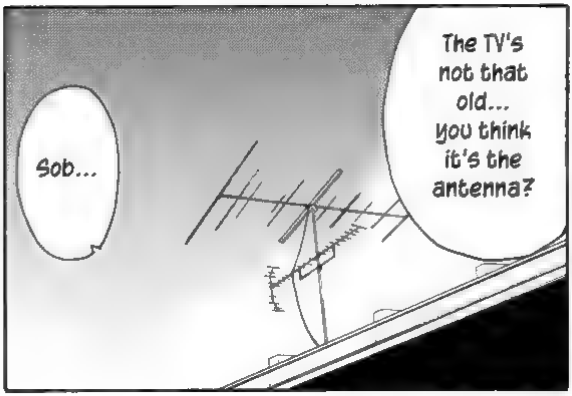

Loved by the dragon... does it mean to fully use the Dragon Spear?
Hime-sama?

Besides, Hime-sama. The formations are not for the body.
SHINE
NAG NAG
PULL...
It's to train the spirit...
THUNK
How chic to use an arrow to deliver a note.
What does it say?
How insane to shoot an arrow at a person.
Could it be...
BADUM BADUM
RUSTLE
DOING DOING

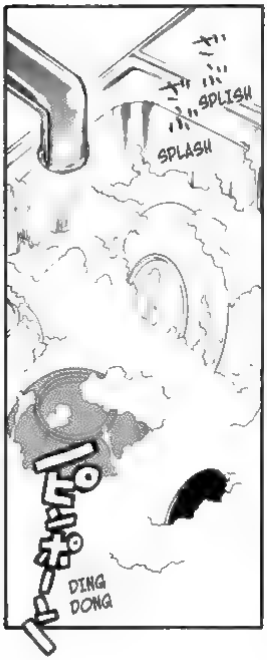
You're right.
.....
A storm is coming...
HEE HEE
I knew it...


Lunch is ready!
CLANG
CLANG

?
?
CLICK
CLICK
Lunch is ready... what's wrong, Ao?
CLANG CLANG


Sob...
The TV's not that old... you think it's the antenna?

I wonder why?
I can't watch Uchi-P...
The TV's not working well.
They show it during the day?


SPLISH
SPLASH
DING DONG

Okay.

Kotoha, can you call the electrician?
Let's eat lunch.
Red-san...

Hello!
Hey.
Hey, you!
WIPE WIPE
Oh, you're wearing summer clothes.
Yes.
I have my hair tied, too.
You're so lucky your summer uniform is so cute.
Yours is cute, too, Kotoha.
Ours doesn't look too different from our usual ones.
But it's hot, so shouldn't you take off your scarf?
Really?
PIT PAT

TUG
.....
?
BAM
WOOSH
Could that be...
An arrow with a note?
Yeah...
RUSTLE RUSTLE
Oh yeah.
I got this in the morning.
HM?
Here.

Hello!!
THUD
Ack!
Oh no! Kohime!?
Long time no see, everyone!!
It's been a long time, onee-sama!!
Uh, yeah.
She's here!
I'm glad you look well.
Thanks.

So anyway.
She's going to run for mayor in the neighboring town.
I see...
So this is what I say...

Please teach me a lot, onee-sama!
Uh, yeah...
Great People of the World
That is right! I'm already nine years old! The same age you became mayor, onee-sama!
So I came here to learn from my great sempai and cousin!

Then Farewell, everyone!
Poor Hime...
ジャキーン
TADA
Well!
It's time for patrolling. Shall we go, onee-sama?
Uh, sure.

デレツンツン♪
Dere tsun tsun
Sigh...
Tsun tsun dere dere
PIT PAT

All right.
GRAB
Oh my, it's been a while.
Hey, it's Kohime-chan!
potatoes 100g 50 yen
Oh.
PIT PAT
Thank you!
Thank you!
It's good!
MUNCH
MUNCH
We just got these apples. Have some!
THROW
And this, while you're at it.
And this, too.
THROW
THROW

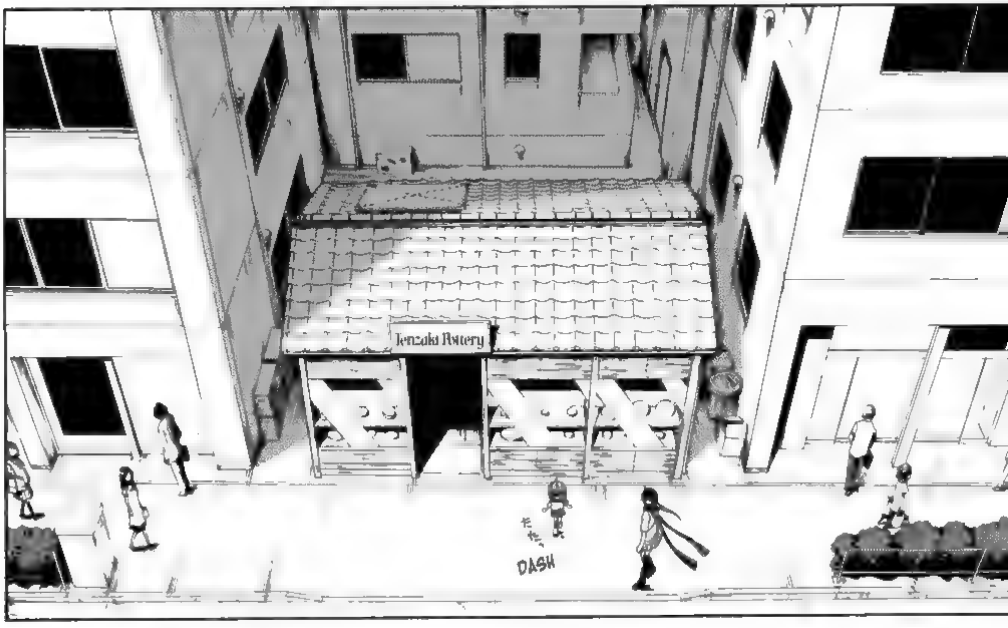
But, gee...
An attraction.
What's that?
THROW
MUNCH
THROW
MUNCH
THROW
MUNCH
THROW

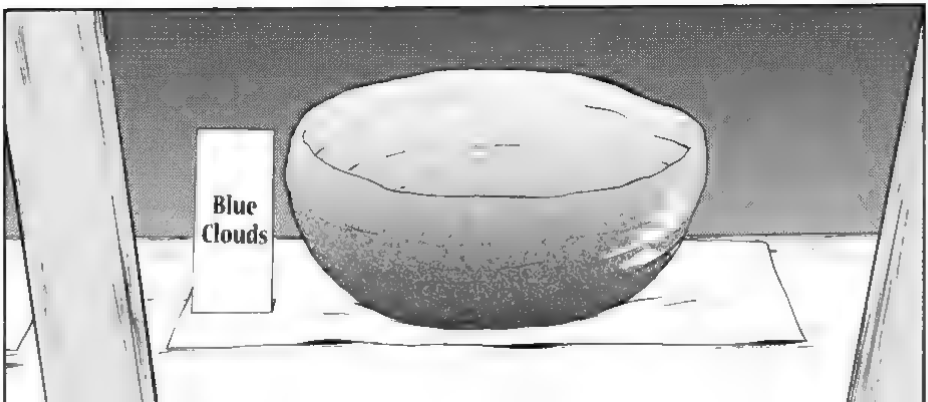
Really. You're just like her.
I'm looking forward to your future.
.....
You're looking more and more like your grandmother!
Huh?
Really?

That's right. Do better than your grandmother.
Work hard, just like your grandmother.
.....
Let's go, Kohime.
Yes, onee-sama.
.....
I'll do my best.
We're looking forward to it!

Huh?
Onee-sama, look!

Kohime!
JUMP
Wow!


Tenzaki Pottery
DASH


Blue Clouds

Tenzaki Pottery
It's Jinroku Gramps' store...
.....
What a lovely bowl!
Wow...
VROOM
VROOM
Are you done? Let's go.
CREEP...
I would love to eat ramen with this...
CHARMED
CLICK
.....

PLOP
Oh!
Kohime!
ZWISH
Hmph...
TA-DA
Jinroku Gramps!
No browsers needed! Leave!
What the heck!?
ROOOOOOAAAAAAAAAA

What's going on?
What!?
And stay away!
TAP
If you're leaving, I'll let her go!
WAAH
Put her down! You freaky gimmick gramps!
DROP
Sheesh...
WHUMP
Whoa!
Just leave them alone. It's not like you have other customers.
WHACK
Argh!

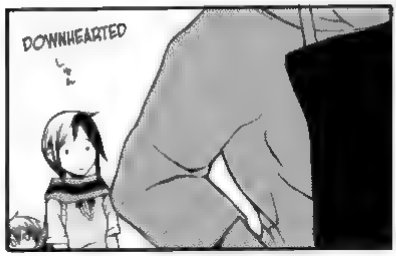
Grandma Kiku!
You've grown a lot, Kohime-chan.
Master-piece? Bah.
I don't want some kid to wreck my masterpiece!
Hurry and leave!
How dare you treat a small child like this!
That's right! How dare you!
Damn...
I can't believe it. It's so pretty...
BONK
It doesn't even sell!
Urgh...
Really?

And it's really pretty!
Yes! I know it was made with great care.
You understand how good that piece is?
.....
GRIP
!
It sure is pretty good...
Hmph...
!
Crude ones aren't allowed to touch! You worthless mayor!
WOOSH
CLICK!
Whoa!
That scared me!

You're a piece of crap compared to the previous mayor, your grandmother!
You're crude, you're selfish...
You're nothing like your grandmother!!
Urh!

I don't approve of you being the mayor!
Don't compare me to my grandmother!!
Gr...

Hurry up and go eat your lunch! I'm going to take it away if you don't!
Damn it...


DOWNHEARTED
しょぼーん

That's enough!
WHACK
Ack!

.....

Everyone keeps saying "grandmother, grandmother."
しょぼーん
DOWNHEARTED

Oh...yeah.
All of the residents are waiting for you to come!
Let's go, onee-sama!
TIOP
We still have patrolling to do!

I can't believe I have to run against a kid.
It's ridiculous!
Hmph!
We're walking.
ZWISH
Chasarge!

Mayor.
I think your win is a sure thing. You don't have to do this.
.....
I'm sorry, sir.
Keep quiet, Shinozuka!
I want to be sure I don't lose!
You'll get your town and this town at the same time.
Every-thing is set.
Hey! Are you sure I can trust you?
!
Of course.
That's right. We need to be doubly sure.
ガヤ

Just leave it to me.
We'll be finished by tonight.

Yozakura Quartet 2

Liaozhai Zhiyi

A collection of supernatural stories with ghosts, demons, and vixen spirits. Originally these tales were passed on orally, but they were compiled by Pu Sung ling during the Qing dynasty. There are over 431 stories in the collection.

"The Beauty in the Book"

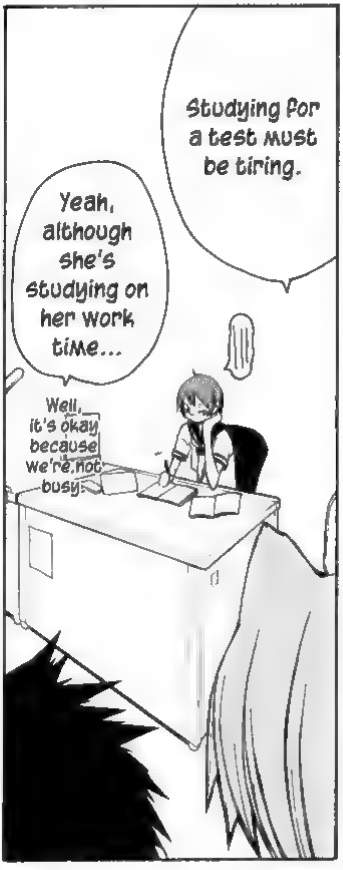
Once there was a man who loved to read. One day, he was reading in his library with a bookmark depicting a beautiful lady. As he stared at the picture, the lady stood up and smiled at him. In order to make the man take a break from reading, the lady taught the man how to play the Japanese harp and cards.

(Featured in *Monthly Shonen Sirius* February 2007 Special issue on 'Ghost Stories in the Winter')

ぼ"
SPACED OUT.
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
WRITE
WRITE

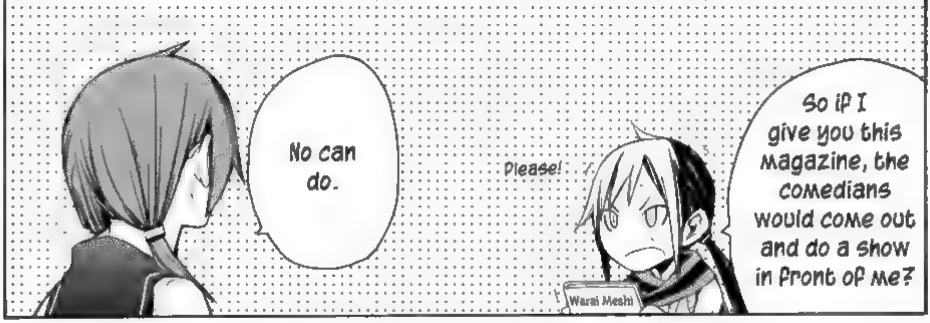
HM?

MUMBLE
MUMBLE
FWOOM


Studying for a test must be tiring.
Yeah, although she's studying on her work time...
Well, it's okay because we're not busy.

POOF
POOF
POOF

It's Prince Shotoku! You materialized Prince Shotoku!
Huh?
Ask me anything
Have him leave!
Whoa! Hey, you're materializing clay pots!!
But I guess you can materialize anything if you read out loud.
Huh? I guess so.
It's tiring, though.
CRACK
ボキ
Oops, I did it again...
How dangerous...
Are you getting enough sleep?
LICK LICK
DELETE
Hime isn't that stressed about her tests.
She studies on a daily basis.
Even though she's busy...


No can do.
Please!
So if I give you this magazine, the comedians would come out and do a show in front of me?
Warai Meshi

How scary.
You're going to eat it, so no.
Please do mine!
Hidagyu

That's illegal!!
Is this for the black market!?
Then can you materialize some organs?
Medical Book
Was visiting

How's this?
pon

This?
Then this!
Hey! Stop bothering me!
Cooking
CURRY

PEEK
Huh? What's this?
Pornography
Don't make a girl read this out loud!
How about it?
PORN

Yozakura Quartet 2

Illustration for the cover of *Monthly Shonen Sirius* November 2006 issue

Illustration for 1st anniversary of magazine (Monthly Shonen Sirius July 2006 issue)

This isn't Hime!
• Normal black socks
You're like a high school girl!
She is.
Whoa!

YozaQ!
Yawn...
Akina-kun!
I couldn't defeat the boss...
I'm so sleepy...
I stayed up late playing video games.
Hey, Kyosuke!
Morning!
Are you used to our school yet?
CHATTER
CHATTER
Oh!
It's been a month, so I guess so... Huh?

She's so dignified and awesome. A man's man!
I see...
Hm?

バーン
TADA
Hey! Your skirt is too short! Go fix it!!
She's Touka-kun, who became the head of the discipline committee.
She's probably doing her rounds.

Hey, you! Close up your jacket!
WHIP
ビッ
Huh?
Oh, right.

Watch where you're going...
ビクッ
WAKE UP

ドターン
THUD
Ack!!
Whoa!

Is that the way you answer? Eh!?
ガシ
GRAB
ムニ
NOBBLE
Hey, calm down...

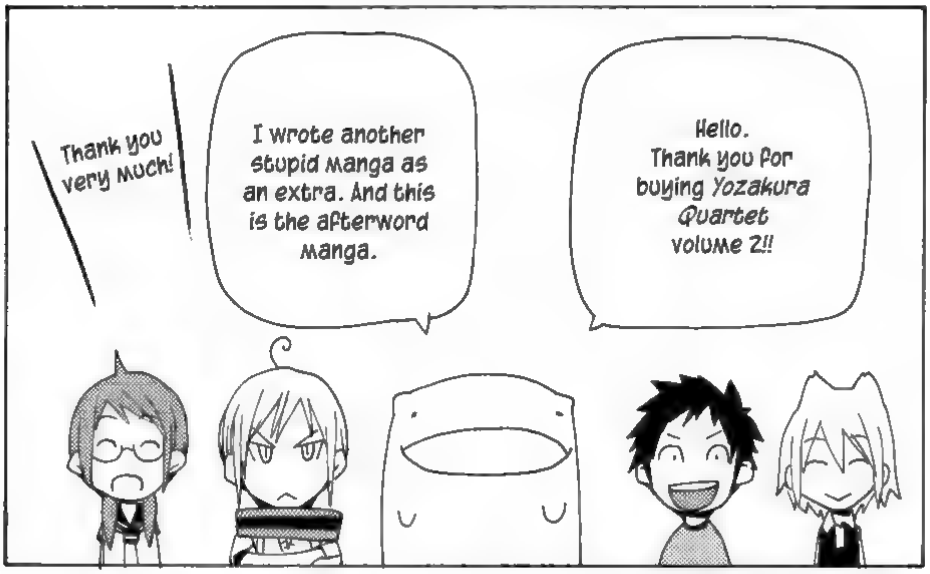
?
Eek!
GRAB
Huh?
What's this?
Pillows?

Akina-kun!
DASH

KADOW
What do you think you're doing!?
Agh!

Akina Hiizumi, I won't forget this...
I'll clean your act up!!
PANT PANT
GRIND
Urgh.
What humiliation!
Hey!!
True...
I think this is a good plotline.

Bonus Manga

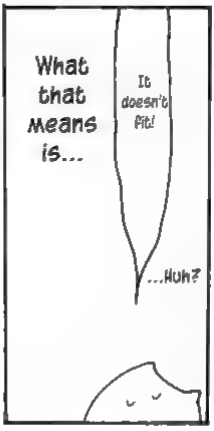

Thank you very much!
I wrote another stupid manga as an extra. And this is the afterword manga.
Hello. Thank you for buying Yozakura Quartet volume 2!!

We don't use our powers.
It's a boring volume.
...What can I say?

So this volume 2...

I'm left out again?
This time, we'll leave Ao here...
PUSH PUSH

Chinese Cuisine "Scarlet Lizard"
Or else it'd become a thin book.
I stuffed it with everything I could think of.
...I had to fill in those extra twenty plus pages with something else.
This spicy ramen is good.
SLURP SLURP


What that means is...
It doesn't fit!
...Huh?

Pagination is like a blueprint
That's because when I was working on the pagination to fit the story I wanted to put in this volume...
One, two, three...

Part 1. Plot

For this volume, I'd like to introduce how *Yozakura Quartet* is made each month.

I see.

Well.

Now that it's the second volume, I think I got used to this creating a manga business.

My height is getting shorter, isn't it?

That was delicious

First I write the plot down.

I don't start this after I finish the episode from the previous month.

Instead, I start to think about it while I work on the previous episode or during free time. So by the time I finish my previous episode, I have something.

I think other monthly manga artists are like this, too.

Bath

And I mail that to my editor, and if there are fixes, I fix them.

I get stuck many times...

...so when that happens...

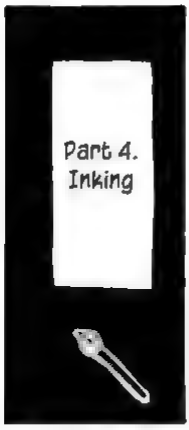
HMMM

It is said that manga is funny "at the point of the storyboard," so this is the hardest stage.

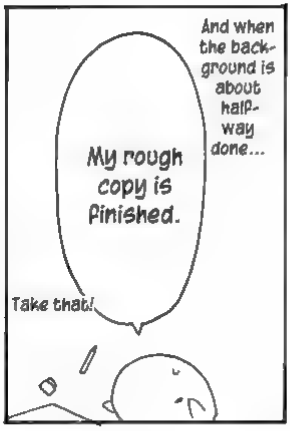
I'll make the draft for the rough copy, the panel splits, and simple characters and make the blueprint for the manga.

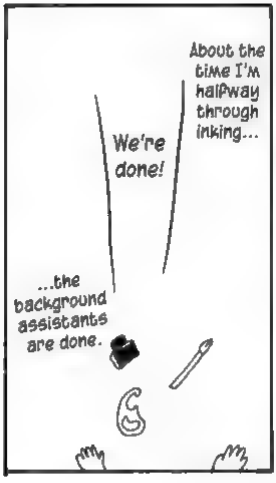
Part 2. Story-board

My body is tired but I can't sleep.
This is really the most tiring, mentally.
I went to Shibuya and back from my house.
That's a long walk!!
My record is walking for a whole night, about twenty kilometers.
How much do I walk? I walk until I get an inspiration.
I hear this is common.
I just start walking.
Although lately there aren't that many pixes.
HEAVY...
There are red marks on almost all the pages and all the panels.
After I complete it I send it to the editor. It comes back after the editor looks it over.
Bookstore "Sumiyoshi Books"
Research, research
You really like manga.
There are so many manga here.
I also go to the bookstore.
I bought an arcade controller.
It's big.
So change of pace is important. That's when I play video games, watch movies, or listen to music.
10
I start at eight in the morning.
They start at 1 pm, end at 10 pm
I have to work on stuff to have them work on.
Fill-ins by Kyosuke and Akina
Once I'm about a third of the way done with the rough copy, my background assistants come in.
Hello!
You're still working alone?
I draw slow, so I don't have anything to give to my assistants yet.
So now I'm finally in the rough copy stage.
Part 3. Rough copy


Part 4.
Inking

Here is where I give my editor a copy of the rough so that he can type up the text for the lines.
This one's really good!
My editor always praises the sexy scenes.
Please praise the other parts, too!
EDITOR


And when the background is about halfway done...
My rough copy is finished.
Take that!


About the time I'm halfway through inking...
We're done!
...the background assistants are done.

At this point I'm not thinking straight because of lack of sleep. So I make many mistakes.
Why does this Ao have black hair?

When I was only an illustrator, I didn't use dipping pens so it took a while to get used to it.
Now I enjoy using them.
WRITE
WRITE

Scanning it into the computer.
Fixing.
Coloring in blacks.
Screen tone fill-ins.
He does all of this for thirty pages every month in one and a half days.
He's superfast.
He's going to catch up with me!

My finishing assistant comes in when the background assistants leave.
Hello!
By the way, I'm still inking.
Filling in

Part 5.
Finishing

I send that to the printers and I'm really done.
U-sama, I'm sorry I'm always late.
I'm done!!
That was sooo tiring!!
And finally, I do the gradient tones, other tones, splash pages, etc...
And inking is done.
Take that!
At the same time, the finishing assistant is done, too.
Didn't you check!?
What!?
I thought it was Ao!
Oh, Hime went that time?
I hope he just forgot because we were drinking!
CLANG
It's very un-Hime-like for her to ride a bullet train.
By the way, we were talking about the third episode (the later half of the story between Ao and Junta), where Junta's father was talking about Hime...
Huh?
EDITOR
BBQ *88 (Paru Paru)*
Yay!
Then I celebrate finishing and talk about the next episode with my editor while eating lots of meat.
EDITOR
Please check it out!
I will do my best, so please check out the next volume, too!
I'm sorry it's going slow.
The story is going to really start moving in volume 3.
So anyway.

Ramen "Kakushin"
I see.
I am the type to worry about how my manga is received.
This is good.
SLURP
Then I'll talk a bit more...
I had more pages!
I knew it!
It's a printing issue.
Again.
EDITOR
So if you have a website or a blog, please let me know what you think of Yozakura Quartet.
We'll search it and go see.
The pep talks help me, too.
Thank you.
I like reading reviews and comments on my readers' blogs.
Sometimes there are people who go and eat at the restaurants I introduce in this afterword!
Okay, let's do that.
Seriously!?
How easygoing!
Please have the design ready by Monday!
CLANG
EDITOR
That caption was decided when I was talking to my editor about the cover design.
Huh?
Let's feature the town song on the obi.
I was only kidding.
HA HA HA
EDITOR
By the way, the most comments I got regarding volume 1 were:
•The obi (both positive and negative)
•The story was hard to understand
I'M sorry, I'll try my best to improve.

Whoa!
"Manga done by illustrators aren't interesting."
There is a saying among manga readers...
GASP
Could it be...
When I started Yozakura Quartet, I had many people asking if I was going to be okay.
Oh yeah.
? Why?
Am I just going to be an illustrator who loves manga but can't create good manga? Or can I move up to becoming a manga artist? I hope you stay with me as I work on this.
WAKE UP
I love manga, so I will do my best so that my readers don't say this.
Sheesh...
This is not my opinion, but it's true that there is that feeling among some manga readers.
Of course, there are so many fun manga done by illustrators out there.
BONK
BONK
Please read volume 3, too! See you then!
Thank you to my assistants Amagi-san, Anri-san, Oishi-san, and Kato-san. Thank you to Ryogo Narita-san and Teru Arai-san for marketing. Thank you to Heaven for making a cocktail named "Yozakura Quartet." (Please don't drink if you're under age!) Thank you to my editor Kimura-san, etc. And to my readers! Thank you very much!
I was told by my friend that the manga is more interesting without the three main girls...(how sad!)
Okay, so this is really the end.
See you!

About the Author

Suzuhito Yasuda's cute and colorful character designs, sharp linework, and unique design talents have made him a popular artist in the fields of both manga and novel illustration. He has illustrated such Japanese novels as *Kamisama Kazoku*, *Scarlet Sword*, and *Maid Machinegun*. He has also worked on the manga series *Pinky:Comic* and *Ebony & Ivory*; *Yozakura Quartet* is his latest work.

His Preferred Tools:
PowerMAC G4 933Mhz
Apple studio display 17 TFT

PowerMAC G4 Cube
Apple Studio Display 17 CRT

Sony VAIO Notebook PCG542B

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Sakura, page 3

Sakura is the Japanese term for cherry blossoms. "Yozakura" in the title refers to *sakura* at night or viewing *sakura* at night.

FamiTsu, page 5

FamiTsu is the biggest Japanese video game magazine. It introduces and reviews various video games. It covers DVDs, TV shows, and books, too.

Onii-chan, page 32

Onii-chan is an honorific for an "older brother."

Chidori, page 36

Chidori is a comedy duo made of Daigo and Nobu. They are from the Okayama Prefecture. Their name comes from the high school nickname of their neighborhood school. They are known for their street punk style.

Uchi-P, page 36

Uchi-P is an abbreviated term for *Uchimura Produce*, a TV show featuring comedians doing comedy sketches.

Fukawa, page 36

Ryo Fukawa is a Japanese comedian, DJ, and musician. He is known for his logic jokes.

Okayama, page 36

Okayama is a prefecture located in the Chugoku region, which is the westernmost region of Honshu, the largest island of Japan. It borders the prefectures of Hiroshima, Tottori, and Hyogo.

Piko Piko hammer, page 37

Mina is using a *piko piko* hammer to hit Touka and Shidou. This is a toy hammer made out of plastic that makes a squeaky sound when it hits something.

ROCO, page 64

ROCO is a singer and songwriter. Her first album was promoted through small retail shops and then spread throughout Japan by word of mouth.

Golgo, page 64

Golgo is part of the comedy duo TIM. He is known for his short gags and using his body to make letters or kanji characters.

District mayor, page 93

In Japan, the head of any city, town, village, or ward/district is referred to as mayor. City mayors are known as *shichou*, town mayors as *chouchou*, village mayors as *sonchou*, and ward/district mayors as *kuchou*. In the Japanese text, Hime is *chouchou* of Sakurashin Town, and Yuhi is referred to as *kuchou*. It is not clear in the story which ward/district Yuhi is mayor of.

Red string, Page 116

Touka makes a reference to a red string, which refers to the Japanese belief that destined lovers are connected by a red string of fate. This red string is usually attatched to the left little fingers.

Jiang Shi, Page 118

A *Jiang Shi* is a Chinese demon. These zombies hop around and prey on living creatures to absorb their chi (living energy).

Kirin, page 124

Kirin is a comedy duo composed of Akira Kawashima and Hiroshi Tamura. Although their first impressions of each other were not good, they eventually became good friends and formed their group.

Megu no Yasu, page 124

Megu no Yasu is a nickname for Megumi Yasu, which she only uses when she's with Uchi-P. She is a swimsuit model and an actress.

Daiginjo Kiku Hime, page 129

Kiku Hime is a type of sake (Japanese rice wine) made in the Ishikawa Prefecture. It is one of the better known labels. *Daiginjo* means that the rice weight is polished to 40 percent or less. It has a milder aroma than other sake.

Tsukkomi and *boke*, page 131

In Japanese comedy, the comedians are separated into a *tsukkomi* and a *boke*. A *boke* is a person who says something stupid or nonsensical, and the *tsukkomi* is the one who reacts. The *tsukkomi* is the straight man.

Menkui, page 133

Menkui means two different things depending on which characters are used. It typically describes someone who is a sucker for good-looking people. The "men" means "face" in this case. Kotoha mistook Hime's words for this meaning. In the next panel, Hime says it again with different characters. In this case, she is saying that she's a noodle eater. The "men" in this example means "noodles."

Thousand-year-old egg, page 137

The thousand-year-old egg is an ingredient in Chinese cuisine. It is made by preserving duck eggs in a mixture of lime and wood ash and placing them in jars or baskets. When the lime and wood ash mixture dries, the eggs are edible. The eggs are dark green in color and the texture is similar to gelatin.

ala, page 146

ala is a Japanese rock band. It's made up of six men and one woman. They belong to their own label, FREEKOUT RECORDS.

Tokyo Dynamite, page 146

Tokyo Dynamite is a comedy duo composed of Daisuke Matsuda and Jiro Hachimitsu. Matsuda is known for his surreal jokes, and Hachimitsu tends to react coldly to him.

Baron Cat, page 146

The Baron Cat is Hiroiki Ariyoshi's character on Uchi-P. He is naked and wears catlike makeup.

Red-san, page 157

Ao is referring to Red Yoshida, a Japanese comedian. He belongs to the duo TIM with his partner, Golgo Matsumoto. He is Ao's favorite comedian in the show Uchi-P.

Tsundere, page 162

Kohime is singing the town song, "Tsundere." Hime was teaching it to kids in volume 1. *Tsundere* is a term for a specific character trait. It describes a person who is standoffish or aloof but can become loveable and adorable in different situations. This term first started in Japanese dating simulation games, then moved on to anime and manga, but is now widely used in mass media.

Prince Shotoku, page 182

Prince Shotoku was a politician during the Asuka period (588–710) in Japan. He is one of the most famous figures in Japan, although he is surrounded with enough mystery that some say he never existed. He was depicted on the old 10,000 yen bill that was in circulation until 1984.

Warai Meshi, page 183

Warai Meshi is a Japanese comedy duo composed of Koji Nishida and Tetsuo. Both were separately part of different duos, but their partners couldn't keep up with their strong personalities and disbanded. Their name means "making a living with comedy."

Hidagyu, page 183

Hidagyu is a Japanese beef from cattle raised in Hida, a city in Gifu Prefecture. It's fatty and known to be expensive.

Obi, page 198

An *obi* is the loop of folded paper found on books that advertises the book. For manga, it is about 6 cm high and placed on the bottom of the book. In Japan, the *obi* on volume 1 said: "*Tsun! Tsundere! Tsun! Dere tsun tsun!*" which was the town song Hime was singing in that volume.